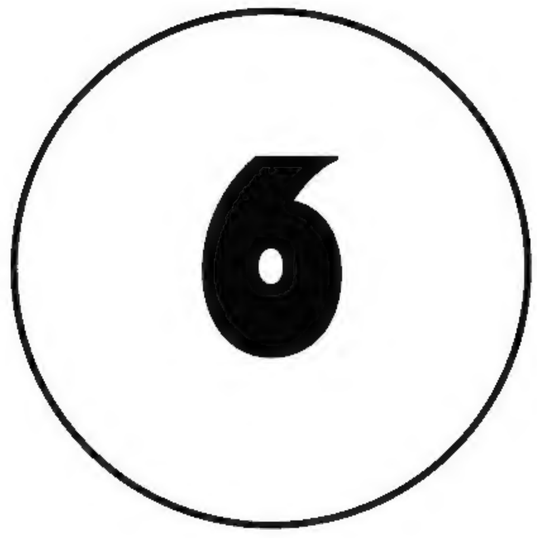
SUZUKA



Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY

David Ury

LETTERED BY

North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

A Note from the Author

I STARTED GROWING TOMATOES ON MY VERANDA, HOPING THAT I'D HAVE A CROP READY BY SUMMER. THE DIRECTIONS SAY TO PRUNE THE PLANT ONCE IT GETS BIG, BUT I JUST COULDN'T BEAR TO HURT IT. SO I DECIDED TO BUY A BIG POT AND TRANSFER THE WHOLE THING INTO IT. THIS SUMMER, I SHOULD BE UP TO MY EARS IN TOMATOES.

6

SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

6

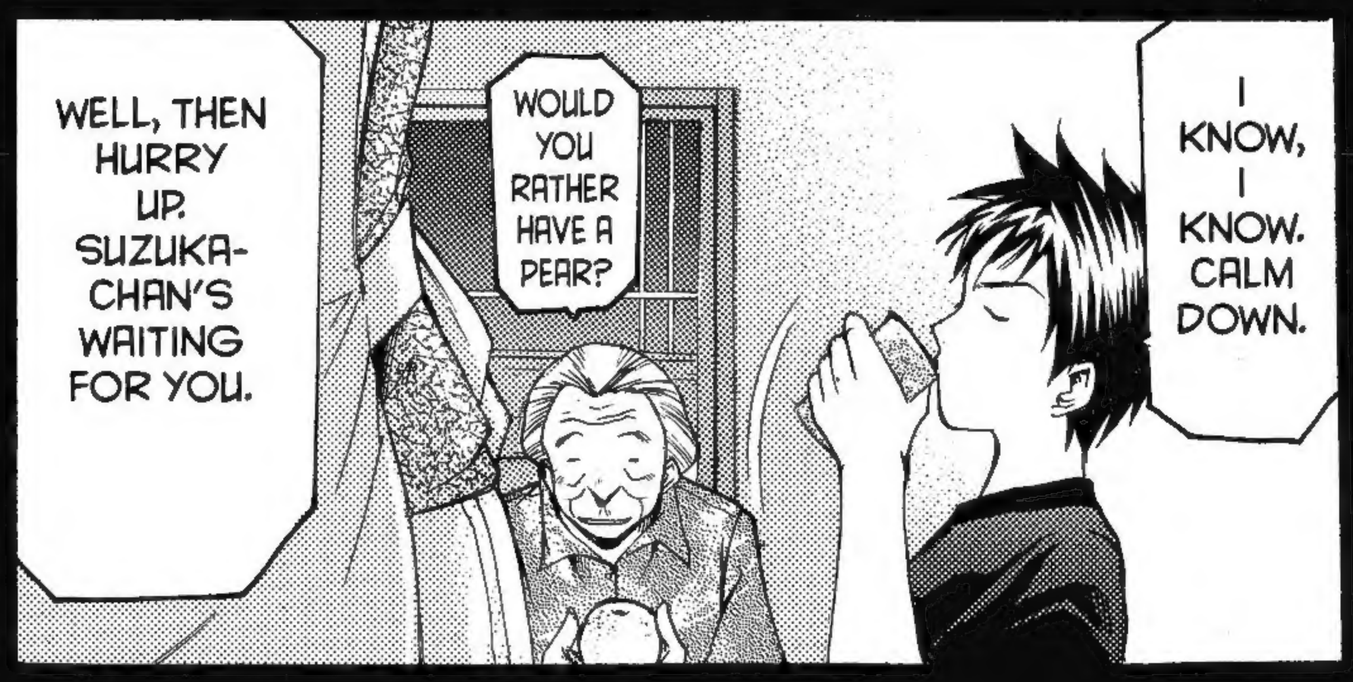
Kouji Seo

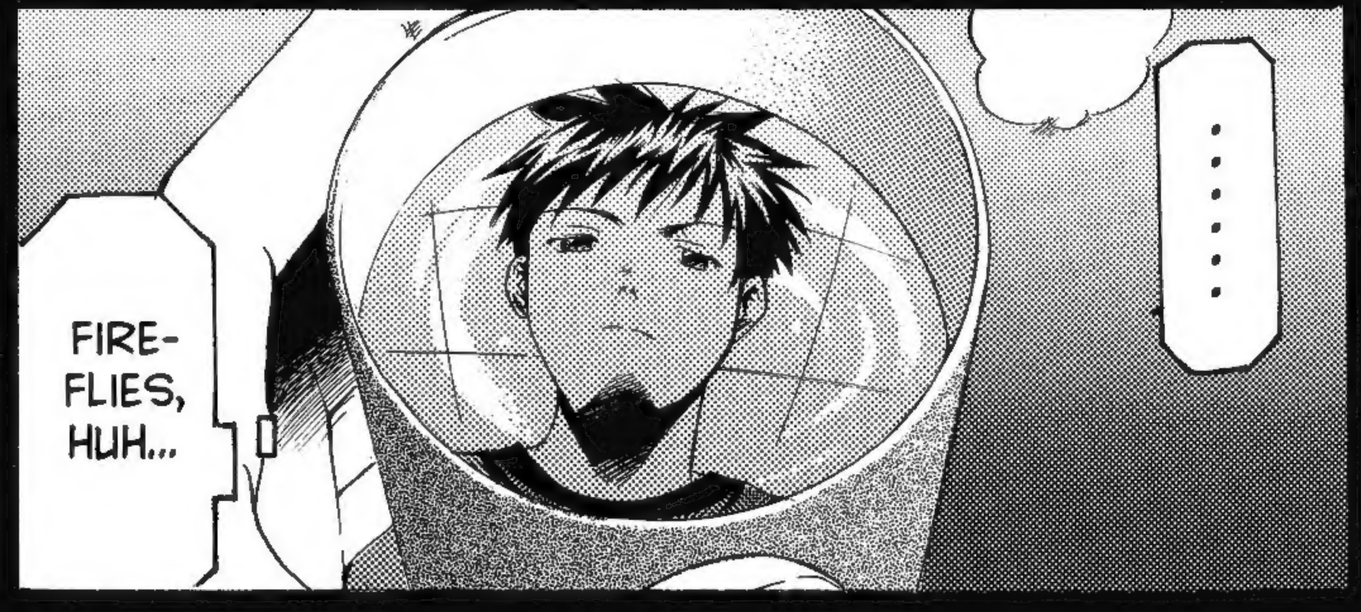
CONTENTS

#41 FIREFLIES.....3
#42 GIRLFRIEND.....23
#43 INSTINCT.....43
#44 REGRET.....63
#45 FALL RAIN.....83
#46 SHIRAKAWA.....103
#47 BOYFRIEND.....123
#48 ADVICE.....141
#49 SHINJUKU.....159

YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE SUZUKA TO SEE THE FIREFLIES, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET OFF YOUR BUTT.
チュッ
SCRINCH

SHHH
シャ
YAMATO, AREN'T YOU DONE EATING YET?
MM...
LET HIM TAKE HIS TIME, KO-TONO-SAN. WANT SOME TAN-GERINE, YAMATO?


I KNOW, I KNOW. CALM DOWN.
WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE A PEAR?
WELL, THEN HURRY UP. SUZUKA-CHAN'S WAITING FOR YOU.


. . . . . .
FIRE-FLIES, HUH...

SUZUKA

#41 FIREFLIES

JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

NOW, YOU WANNA GO FOR A WALK WITH ME....

WHERE THE HELL'D SHE GO? MAYBE SHE'S OUT ON THE PORCH.

表彰状

I ALREADY TOLD HONOKA-CHAN I'D BE HOME TODAY.

SHE SAYS ALL THAT CRAP, AND THEN SHE JUST SUDDENLY CHANGES HER MIND...

STEP

HUH?

YA-MA-TO-KUN.

YOU'RE GONNA GET EATEN BY MOSQUI-TOES IF YOU KEEP STANDING OUT HERE.

OKAY, OKAY, I'M SOR-RY.

I AL-READY GOT BITTEN.

BECAUSE A CERTAIN SOME-BODY WAS TAKING WAY TOO LONG TO FINISH HIS DINNER.

DON'T SIT DOWN! COME ON, LET'S GO.

OKAY, AL-READY.

WOW, THIS PLACE REALLY IS DESOLATE. NOTHING BUT RICE PADDIES EVERY-WHERE YOU LOOK.

コッ!

STEP

YEAH, SORRY IT'S NOT SOPHIS-TICATED ENOUGH FOR YOU...

THEY REALLY ARE BEAUTIFUL.

BUT ONCE YOU SEE THE FIREFLIES, IT WON'T SEEM SO DESOLATE ANYMORE.

REALLY?

THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL FIND THEM. THERE'RE USUALLY A BUNCH BY THE RIVER.

OVER BY THAT BRIDGE...

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

HURRY UP! LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.

I GET IT. YOU'RE SO MOVED, YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK, RIGHT?

AH...

WHOA, WHOA. DON'T RUN. IT'S TOO DARK.

FIRE-FLIES...?

HUH?

I DON'T SEE A SINGLE ONE.

...BUZZ-ING UP A STORM...

THERE'S ALWAYS TONS OF THEM HERE... EVERY SINGLE SUMMER...

HUH? WHAT THE HELL?

HUH?

dHui

NORTH SHORE OAHU RUSTLE

RUSTLE

IT'S TRUE.

GLARE

.....

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I HAD A FEELING THIS WOULD HAPPEN ANYWAY.

.....

SORRY...

I KNOW YOU STAYED AN EXTRA NIGHT JUST FOR THIS...

SCHWIK

SHIT. THERE ARE ALWAYS TONS OF 'EM OUT HERE WHEN I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT THEM.

THESE DAMN FIREFLIES ARE NEVER AROUND WHEN I NEED THEM.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT SETTING... YOU KNOW... SURROUNDED BY FIREFLIES...

BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, I INVITED THIS GIRL I LIKED OUT HERE... SO I COULD TELL HER I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER.

HUH? DID YOU BRING SOMEONE ELSE OUT HERE TO SEE THEM BEFORE?

YEAH...

WHAT HAP-PENED?

SO...

I FIGURED "WHAT THE HELL" AND I TOLD HER I LOVED HER ANYWAY. SHE JUST TURNED AROUND AND WALKED AWAY.

WITHOUT EVEN SAYING A WORD.

WELL... THAT NIGHT... THERE WASN'T A SINGLE DAMN FIREFLY OUT HERE. AND THEN IT STARTED POURING DOWN RAIN.

MY WHOLE PLAN WAS RUINED.

WH- WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HEH. HA, HA, HA.

I CAN TOTALLY PICTURE THAT.

THAT'S SO YAMATO-KUN!

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

YOU FINALLY GET TO YOUR BIG MOMENT, AND THEN YOU BLOW IT.

.....

WH-WHAT IS?

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE FUNNY.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE TO ME, OKAY.

.....

THAT'S WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT IT.

YOU SET UP THIS MOOD, AND THEN YOU TO-TALLY RUIN IT.

YOU KNOW...

I HAVE TOLD GIRLS I LOVED THEM WITHOUT BLOWING IT BEFORE!

HUH?

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? I'M TALKING ABOUT YOU!

WHAT?

DaHui

OH, WHAT ARE YOU BRAGGING ABOUT NOW?

YOU'LL TELL JUST ANY GIRL YOU LOVE HER, WON'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

HUH...

UH...

UM... I MEAN...

HUH?

SO, HOW WERE YOU GONNA TELL THAT GIRL YOU LIKED HER BEFORE EVERYTHING WENT WRONG? WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN?

.....

AH!

LOOK THERE'S ONE! THERE'S A FIREFLY!

WHAT WOULD BE THE POINT?

WH-WHAT? SHUT UP!

I BET YOU HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT, RIGHT?

COME ON, AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL ME. PUT ON YOUR WHOLE AKIT-SUKI LOVE CONFESSION SHOW!

COME ON! I SAID DO IT!

JUST HURRY UP AND DO IT ALREADY!

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GO-ING?

YOU'RE FUCKING NUTS.

IS SHE THREATENING ME?

HUH?

HUH?

KNOW WHAT THIS IS? IT'S CALLED A FIREFLY FLOWER.

PLOINK

7°4"

AH...

GLOW

HUH?

SHOCK

I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.

WILL YOU...

...GO OUT WITH ME?

THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH IT.

OKAY.

...?

SURE...

I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU...

HUH?

WHA—?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP MESSING WITH ME!

I'M NOT...

HA

TSSS

HP

...MESSING WITH YOU.

GLOW

ナニ？

WH—?
WHAT?

HUH?

PSYCH! JUST KIDDING.

WHOA!

Y- YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE—!

YOU TURNED BEET RED! YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.

DID YOU ACTUALLY THINK I WAS SERIOUS?

UH...

YEAH...

JUST KID-DING!

IT'S SO PRETTY!

LOOK AT ALL THESE FIRE-FLIES.

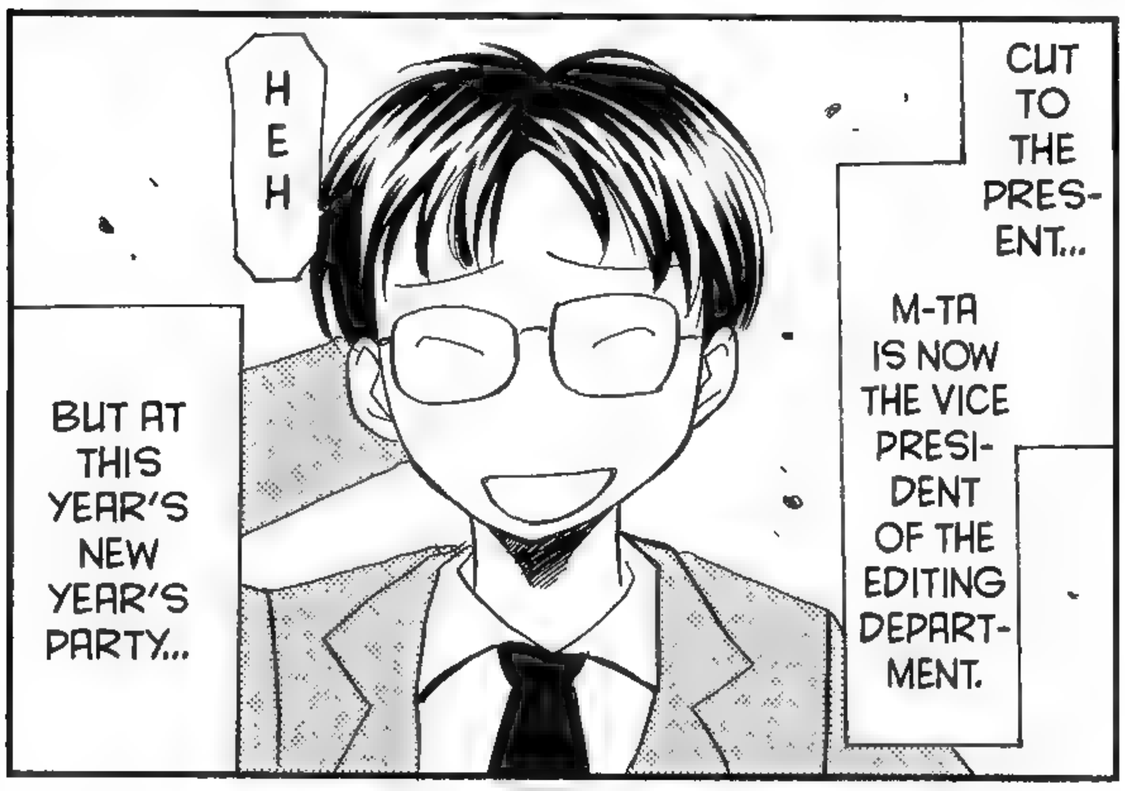
OF COURSE SHE WAS.

I GUESS OUR EYES JUST WEREN'T ADJUSTED TO THE DARKNESS YET.

THERE'S NO WAY ASAHINA WOULD EVER SAY THAT FOR REAL.

SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR
GOALS - PART 2

MY EDITOR, M-TA-SAN, WAS ALL STRESSED OUT TRYING TO ORGANIZE EVERYTHING.
AH, I'VE GOTTA GET EVERY-BODY READY TO HEAD OUT TO THE BAR.
TAPPA
TAPPA
NO PROB-LEM
SORRY I LEFT YOU ALL ALONE, SEO-KUN.
FIVE YEARS AGO—AT KODAN-SHA'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY.



#42
GIRLFRIEND

SUZUKA

コッ!
STEP
DOINK
ピタッ
SIZZLE シャワ
SIZZLE シャワ
ASAHI-YU BATHS
SIZZLE シャワ
SIZZLE シャワ
AH, AYANO-SAN! GOOD MORNING.
!! FWUP
!!
WHY ARE YOU UP SO EARLY?
MEOW
AH, GOOD MORN-ING, HONOKA-CHAN.
UM... IS AKITSUKI-KUN...
YUUKA-SAN...
STEP カ
STEP カ
SUZUKA-CHAN AND YAMATO-KIN AREN'T BACK YET.

OH...

...OKAY.

B-BUT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO COME HOME YESTERDAY.

WELL, APPARENTLY SOMETHING CAME UP AND THEY HAD TO STAY ANOTHER NIGHT. THEY'LL BE BACK THIS AFTERNOON.

MAYBE SOME-THING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND SUZUKA-CHAN.

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE. YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM HOW YOU FELT AND THEN ASKED HIM OUT.

BUT IF YOU KEEP SLACK-ING OFF...

...YOU MIGHT END UP LOSING YAMATO-KUN.

STEP

STEP

NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND SUZUKA.

OH, REALLY? OKAY, THEN...

STEP

STEP

BUT WE'RE AL-READY GOING OUT.

YAMATO'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

ゴ〃 VROON

ゴ〃 CLACK

ゴトン

ゴ〃 CLACK

ゴ〃 CLACK

GLANCE ちらっ

ゴトン

ゴ〃 CLACK

SURE...

I'LL GO OUT WITH YOU.

...

SHIT...

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT SHE WAS SERIOUS FOR A SECOND THERE.

I'M NOT MESSING WITH YOU.

TSSS

HEY, ASAHINA. YOU THIRSTY?

NOT REALLY.

WHAT?

N- NOTHING.

. . . . .

YOU SURE?

YEAH.

ASAHINA JUST WANTED TO SEE THE FIREFLIES. THAT'S ALL.

NEXT STOP: TOKYO

10

ゴトン CLACK ゴトン

ゴトン CLACK ゴトン

. . . . .

WHY AM I GETTING ALL NERVOUS AROUND HER.

CHATTER

YEAH.

CHATTER

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED, THEN WE MAY AS WELL GET SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE WE GO BACK.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT LUNCH?

I CALLED AYANO-SAN YESTERDAY AND SHE SAID THAT THE CAPTAIN BROUGHT ALL YOUR STUFF OVER.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR BAGS.

BUT I'M KIND OF WOR-RIED ABOUT MY BAGS AND STUFF.

YEAH, SO YOU CAN JUST RELAX AND HAVE SOME LUNCH.

OH.

WELL, OKAY THEN.

I THINK I'LL JUST GO STRAIGHT TO SCHOOL.

HO-NOKA-CHAN?

AH!

AKITSUKI-KUN!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

A-AYANO-SAN SAID YOU'D BE BACK AROUND NOON SO...

YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME HERE ALL THIS TIME?

YOU MEAN...

YEAH.

UH...

OH...

THEN, WH- WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL PAY BACK ALL THE MONEY YOU LENT ME.

O-OKAY..

NO RUSH OR ANYTHING.

A-ASA-HINA...

SWIP

WELL, BYE. I'M GONNA HEAD BACK.

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

MAYBE SOME-THING HAPPENED BETWEEN HIM AND SUZUKA-CHAN.

ギュッ
SQUEEZE

U-UM... I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP CARRY YOUR BAG.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HONOKA-CHAN.

HUH? OH...IS IT?

RUSTLE
ガサッ

BUT MY BAG'S IN THIS HAND.

R-
REALLY...

OKAY
THEN.

I'LL
CARRY
IT FOR
YOU.

THAT'S
OKAY.
IT'S NOT
THAT
HEAVY.

UM...

WHAT?

I
GUESS...
YOU
WERE
WORRIED
ABOUT
ME...
HUH?

.....

I...
I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT...
UM...

I'M ALREADY IN LOVE WITH ONE GIRL, SO I WOULD NEVER TRY ANYTHING WEIRD WITH ANOTHER.

BUT DON'T WORRY...

I'M SORRY.

...!

REALLY... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

.....

STEP

!?

WHOA!

HEY!

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU–

STARE

STARE

HUH?

I-IT IS?

I'VE ACTU-ALLY...

...YOU EVER TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME.

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...

HONOKA-CHAN...

...BEEN KIND OF WORRIED.

ALL THIS TIME SHE'D BEEN WAITING TO HEAR IT, BUT...

I NEVER EVEN TOLD HER I LOVED HER.

I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DIDN'T REALLY LOVE ME.

AH... I'M SORRY. I'M EMBAR-RASSING YOU, AREN'T I. I GUESS THIS ISN'T REALLY THE BEST PLACE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

I STOPPED WORRYING ONCE I SAW YOUR FACE, AKITSUKI-KUN.

BUT IT'S OKAY.

THUMP

THUMP

...HOW ASAHINA FEELS ABOUT ME ANYMORE.

I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER...

BE-CAUSE...

YEAH, IT'S OKAY.

FWIP

I'M IN LOVE WITH HONOKA SAKURAI.

UH, UM...

GUESS THIS ISN'T REALLY THE PLACE TO...

SORRY.

.....

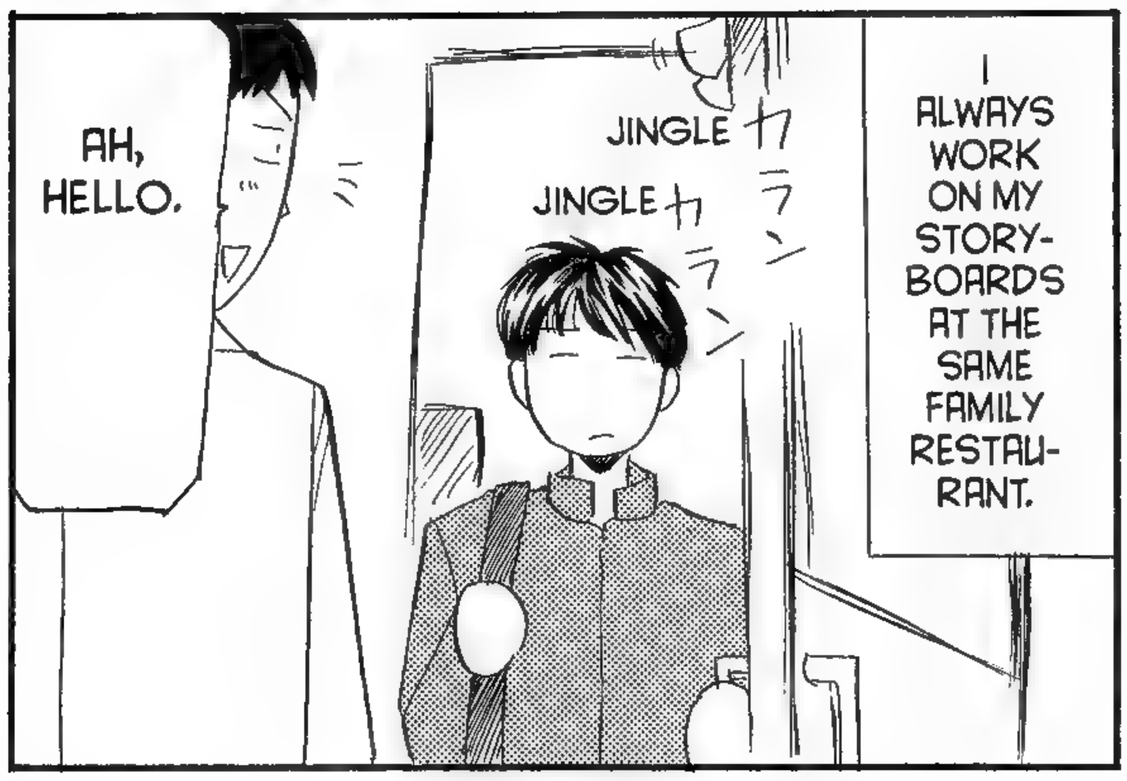
NO.

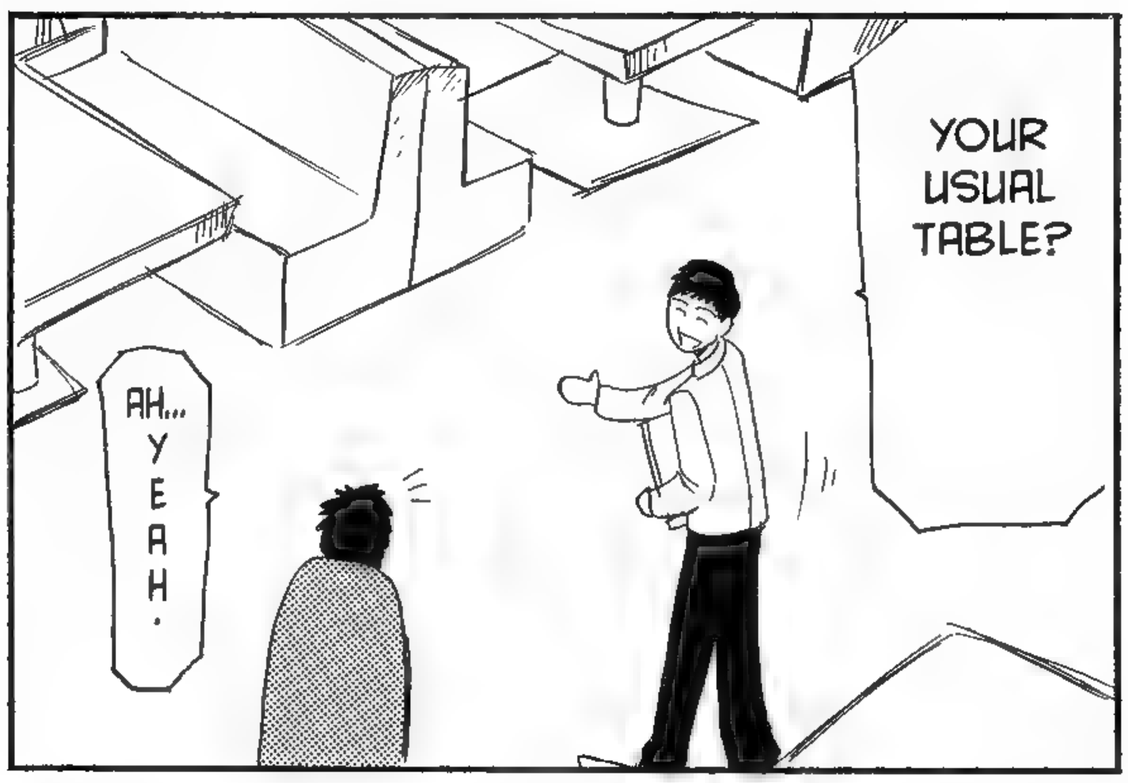
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU DID THAT.

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NUMBER TWENTY-FIVE

THE REGULAR





OH, YEAH. I WAS SO BUSY WITH TRACK THAT I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE I HAD A BREAK.

TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF THE SECOND SEMES-TER.

.....

GOOD MORN-ING, AKITSUKI-KUN.

GOOD MORN-ING...

HONOKA-CHAN.

SUZUKA

#43
INSTINCT

DID YOU KISS SAKURAI YET?

SO?

SPLLRT

THAT'S CAUSE IT'S WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.

ACTUALLY, IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IN MY BUILDING KNOWS, TOO.

CLANK

H-HOW'D YOU EVEN KNOW WE WERE GOING OUT?

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT. I AL-READY KISSED HER, MAN.

ACTUALLY, THE WHOLE THING STARTED WITH A KISS.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING OUT FOR REAL.

WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I MEAN, YOU TWO ARE JUST PLAYING HOUSE ANYWAY.

GIVE ME A BREAK. YOU WERE SNEAKING OUT TO SEE HER EVERY FREAKING NIGHT.

SO?

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?

HUH?

HOLY SHIT!

YOU KISSED HER! YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME A MAN.

SH- SHUT UP! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

SPLRRRRT

DID YOU DO HER YET?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S STUPID.

YOU KISSED HER, BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN CLOSE THE DEAL?

GOD, YOU'RE SO GROSS.

YOU STUPID FUCKING PERVERT.

HUH?

HERE.

SQUEEZE

JUST BECAUSE WE KISSED, DOESN'T MEAN...

W-MARK

SAGAMI ORIGINAL

Hi-Polymer Urethane Condoms
Extra thin and Natural fe

OPEN

WHAT'S THIS?

JUST USE IT WHENEVER YOU'RE READY, CHERRY BOY.

MY WHAT?

BUT DON'T FORGET, MAN, YOU GUYS ARE GOING OUT NOW...

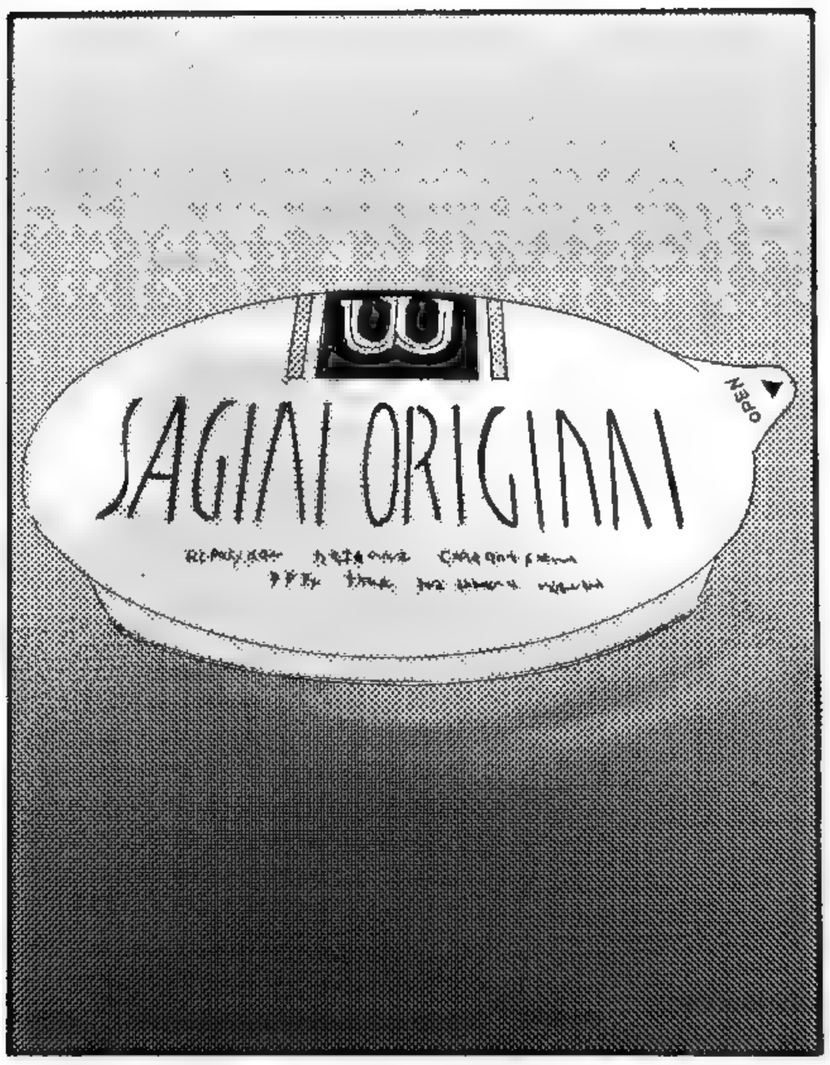
SO, IT HAS TO HAPPEN AT SOME POINT.

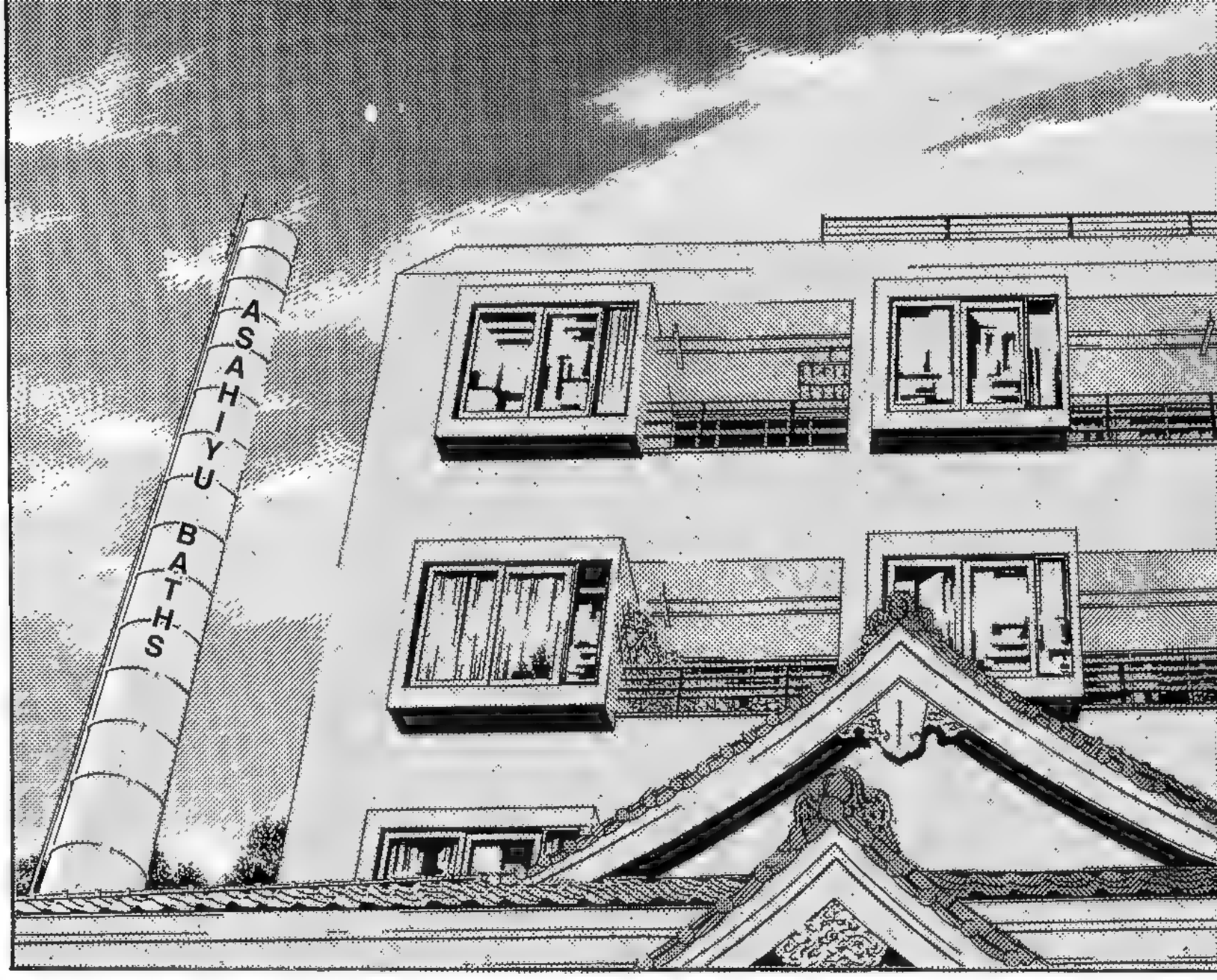
.....

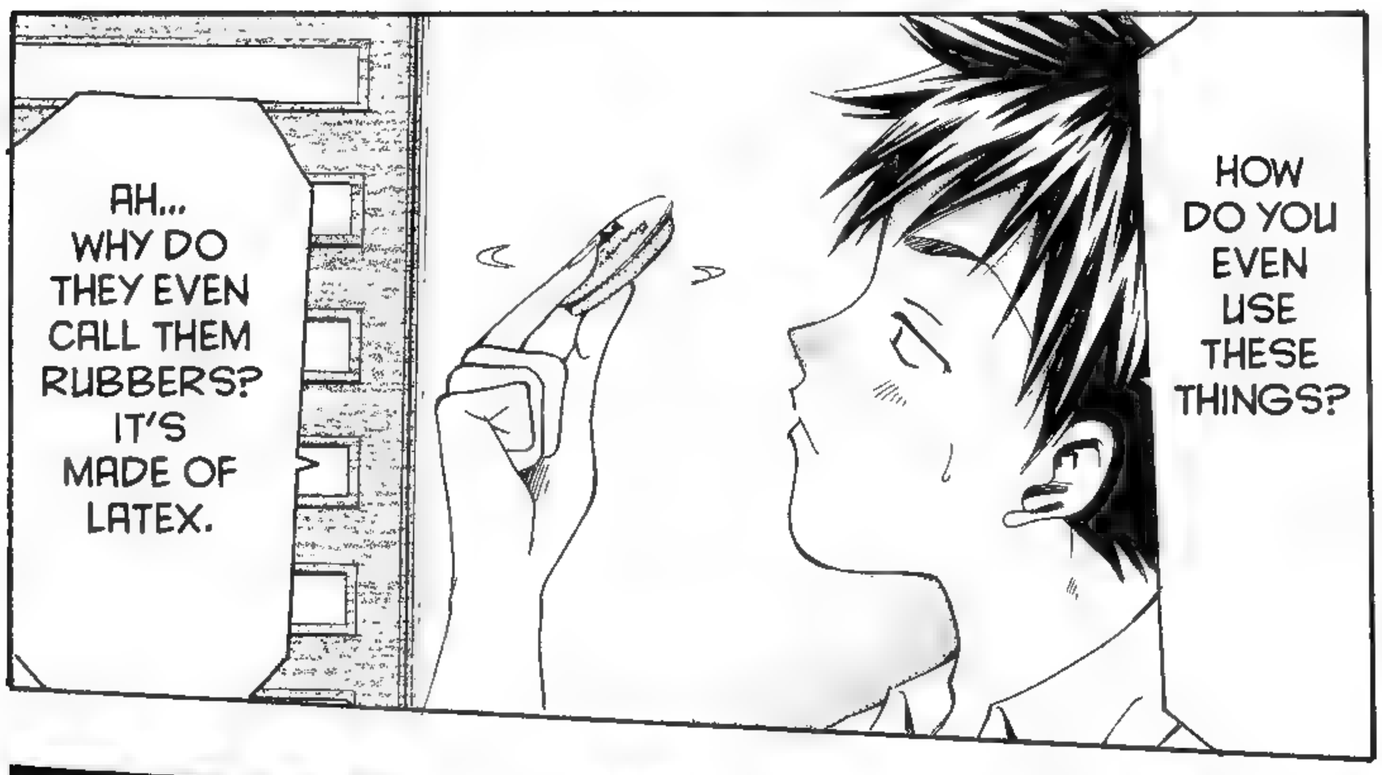
IT'S CALLED A CON-DOM, MAN.

I PREFER THE BANZAI PULLOUT TECHNIQUE, BUT YOU'D PROBABLY LOSE YOUR LOAD BEFORE YOU MADE IT OUT.

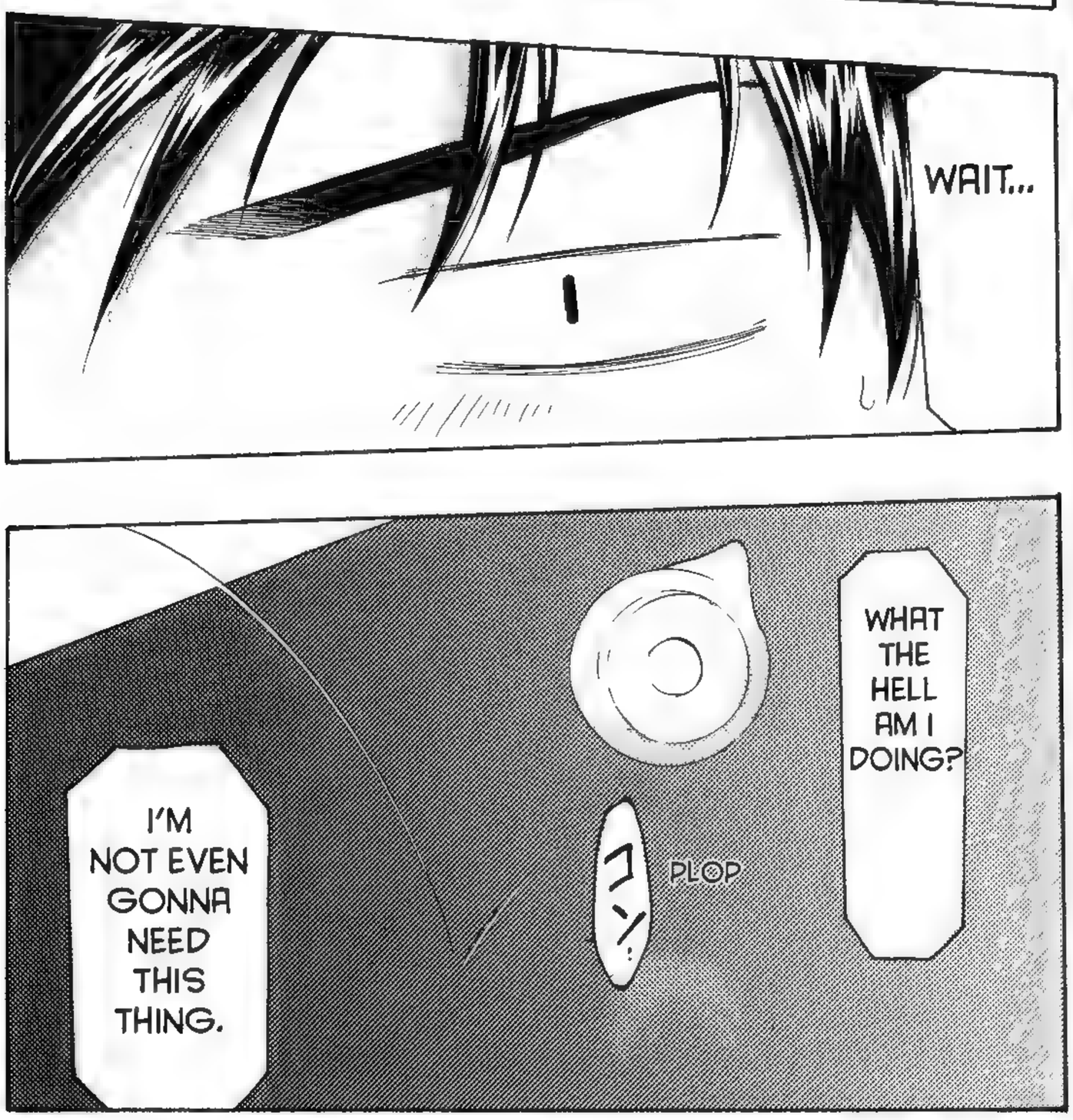
CLINK


SAGIAI ORIGINAL
OPEN


ASAHIYU BATHS


AH... WHY DO THEY EVEN CALL THEM RUBBERS? IT'S MADE OF LATEX.
HOW DO YOU EVEN USE THESE THINGS?

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE...
HINATA VISIONS
HE GAVE THIS TO ME.


WAIT...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
PLOP
I'M NOT EVEN GONNA NEED THIS THING.

AH...

FLUMP

OH YEAH... AYANO-SAN WENT OUT TONIGHT, SO SHE DIDN'T MAKE DINNER.

AND MIHO-CHAN SAID SHE WAS GONNA GO OUT TO EAT WITH A FRIEND.

HUH?

DING DONG

WELL...

PLUNK

GUESS I'LL HEAD TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE. I'LL JUST GET SOME CROQUETTES.

CREAK

NAH, IT CAN'T BE.

IT'S PROBABLY THOSE TWO DRUNKS OR MAYBE THE NEWSPAPER GIRL.

ASAHINA?

GOOD EVENING.

HUH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR, HONOKA-CHAN?

WELL...YOU SAID AYANO-SAN WASN'T GONNA BE HERE THIS EVENING, RIGHT AKITSUKI-KUN?

SO, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HADN'T HAD DINNER YET.

ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING I'D MAKE SOME-THING FOR YOU, BUT...

RUSTLE

WHAT? YOU BOUGHT ME DINNER? YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

N-NO!

I HAVEN'T EATEN.

301

NHK 3-5

AH... DID YOU ALREADY EAT?

YAMATO AKITSUKI

DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FANCY, OKAY?

くすっ

GIGGLE

GOOD... WELL THEN.

OKAY...

I GUESS I'D BETTER GET STARTED.

ASAHIYU BATHS

WHATEVER IT IS, I'M SURE IT'LL BE BETTER THAN SOME LOUSY CONVENIENCE STORE BENTO.

Y-YEAH. G-GO AHEAD.

MAKE SOMETHING FOR ME... PLEASE.

CHOP

CHOP

CREAK ボヘー

CHOP

CHOP

CHOP

CHOP

HO-
HONOKA-
CHAN...

...IS
COOKING
ME DINNER
IN MY
OWN
ROOM...
IN AN
APRON.

SHE'S
SO
SWEET.

SHE
WENT TO
ALL
THIS
TROUBLE
JUST
FOR ME.

SORRY.

IT'S GONNA TAKE A LITTLE BIT LONGER. WHY DON'T YOU WATCH SOME TV?

O-OKAY.

IT'S ALMOST LIKE WE'RE LIVING TOGETHER.

THUMP ドキ

THUMP ドキ

THUMP ドキ

WHOA!

コロン PLUP

SAGAMI ORIGINAL

FWUP

I CAN'T BELIEVE I LEFT THAT SITTING THERE.

WAHH!

HUH?

WH-
WHAT'S
WRONG?

N-
NOTHING.

THE SOY
SAUCE IS
ON THE
TOP SHELF
OF THE
CUP-
BOARD.

OKAY.

!!

AKITSUKI-
KUN,
WHERE'S
YOUR
SOY
SAUCE.

THWUP

GARBAGE

IF SHE
SAW ME WITH
THIS THING,
WHO KNOWS
WHAT SHE'D
THINK.

THAT
WAS
CLOSE.

W-
WELL...
MAYBE I
SHOULD
JUST
HANG ON
TO IT.

YOINK

.....

BUT DON'T
FORGET,
MAN, YOU
GUYS ARE
GOING OUT
NOW...

WH-
WHAT
THE
HECK
ARE
YOU
DOING?

N-
NOTHING.

AKITSUKI-
KUN,
WHERE'S
YOUR
SALT.

スポ

FWUMP

オオ

SO, IT
HAS TO
HAPPEN
AT SOME
POINT.

カチャ CLINK

カチャ CLINK

YOU COULD BE ON IRON CHEF, HONOKA-CHAN.

CHOMP モリ

CHOMP モリ

MMM. IT'S REALLY GOOD!

I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE IT.

HERE GOES MY LAST BITE.

FWICK

I KINDA WOLFED IT DOWN.

. . . . . .

HOW IS IT?

HUH?

SWIP

HUH?

OH...

OKAY.

OKAY.

OPEN UP AND SAY AHH-HHH.

GULP

(I'll)

CHOMP
もぐもぐ

CHOMP
もぐもぐ

……

……

REALLY.

OH GOOD.

DID YOU GET ENOUGH TO EAT?

YEAH. IT WAS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT.

SINCE AYANO-SAN WASN'T GONNA BE COOKING TONIGHT, I WAS PLANNING ON JUST GRABBING SOMETHING, SO...

I'M REALLY GLAD YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT... AYANO-SAN ISN'T HERE, SO THAT MEANS ASAHINA PROBABLY HASN'T EATEN EITHER...

AH...

I DON'T THINK SHE'S MUCH OF A COOK.

I WONDER WHAT SHE'S GONNA DO FOR DINNER.

HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING ABOUT?

.....?

...WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW DELICIOUS THAT DINNER WAS.

U-UH...

I...

OH.

. . . . . .

WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING?

AH... I'LL WASH THE DISHES.

YANK

CLANK

WHY SHOULD I EVEN CARE ABOUT ASAHINA?

AH...

HUH?

A-AKITSUKI-KUN! WATCH OUT!

.....

FWUMP

H..HEY... WHAT'S WRONG, AKITSUKI-KUN.

YOU LOOK SO SCARY...

HUH?

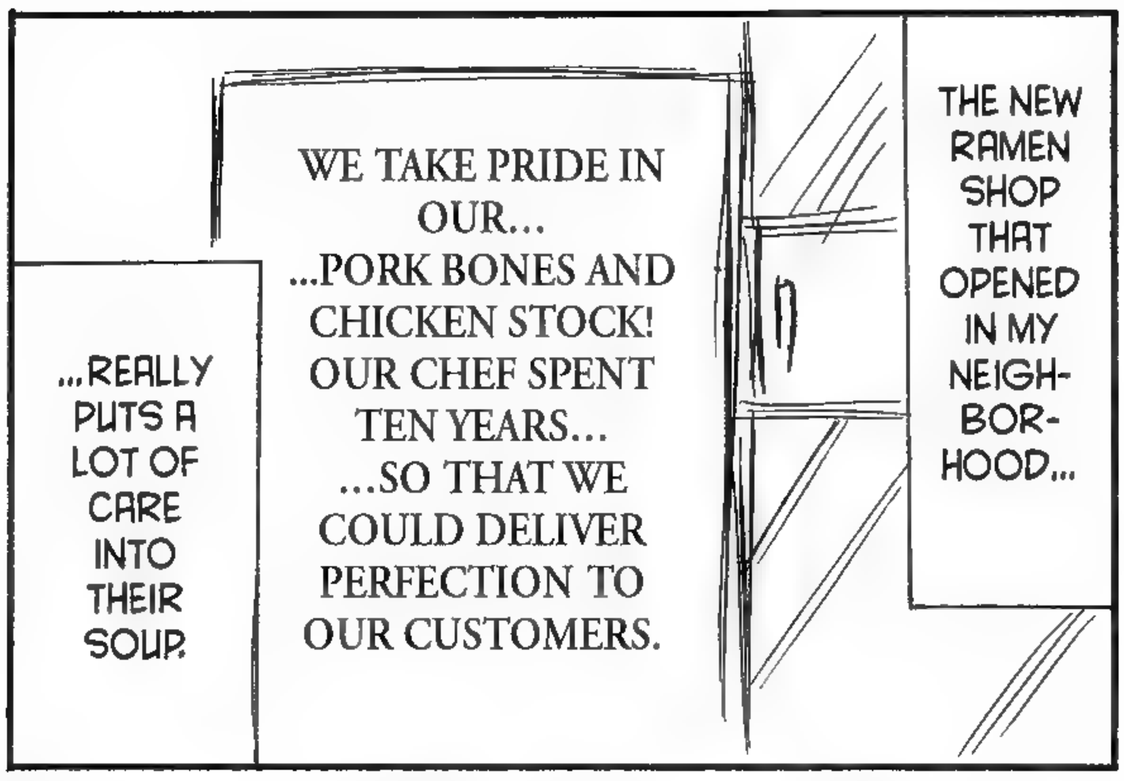
STO—

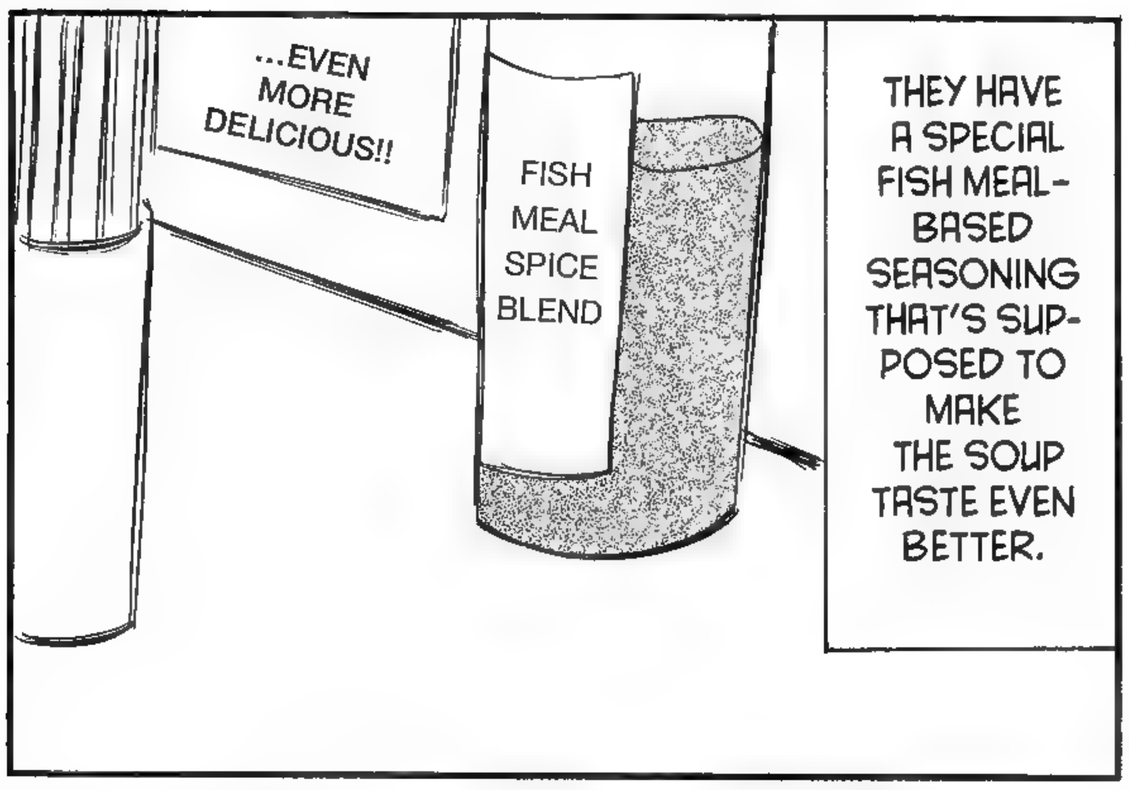
SQUEEZE

I'M...

...GOING OUT WITH HONOKA-CHAN NOW!

SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-SIX
THE SOUP CONNOISSEUR


...REALLY PUTS A LOT OF CARE INTO THEIR SOUP.
WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR...
...PORK BONES AND CHICKEN STOCK! OUR CHEF SPENT TEN YEARS...
...SO THAT WE COULD DELIVER PERFECTION TO OUR CUSTOMERS.
THE NEW RAMEN SHOP THAT OPENED IN MY NEIGH-BOR-HOOD...


...EVEN MORE DELICIOUS!!
FISH MEAL SPICE BLEND
THEY HAVE A SPECIAL FISH MEAL-BASED SEASONING THAT'S SUP-POSED TO MAKE THE SOUP TASTE EVEN BETTER.

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, AKITSUKI-KUN?

I SAID STOP IT!

ST- STOP IT.

AKITSUKI-KUN.

SWIP !!

I'M...

SUZUKA

#44 REGRET

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

SHIVER

SQUEEZE

AHH...

YOU'RE...

...SCARING ME, AKITSUKI-KUN.

!

FWUP

I SAID STOP!!

HUH...

AH... HONOKA-CHAN.

WHOOSH

KYA!

CLICK

……

カン CLOPPA

カン CLOPPA

カン CLOPPA

……

チリ CREAK

ASAHINA...

HEY?

WHAT'S WRONG?

HONOKA-CHAN...

IT'S...

...NOTHING.

.....

I BET YOU SAID SOMETHING STUPID AND STARTED A FIGHT, DIDN'T YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

.....

YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF TACT, YAMATO-KUN.

YOU ALWAYS SCREW EVERY-THING UP.

SLAM

IT'S NONE OF YOUR GODDAMN BUSINESS. JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

CREAK

AH... WAIT...

HEY! YOU'RE SLOWING DOWN!

TSSS

TSSS

TSSS

HURRY UP OR I'LL TACK ON ANOTHER LAP.

HUH? I DON'T THINK SHE'S HERE TODAY.

CHATTER

CHATTER

HEY, SAKURAI-SAN, GET ME A POCARI.

IT'S BECAUSE OF LAST NIGHT...

OH. I WONDER IF SHE'S SICK OR SOME-THING.

YEAH, MAY-BE.

WHY DID I KEEP THINKING ABOUT ASAHINA?

DOES THAT MEAN I STILL HAVE LINGERING FEELINGS FOR HER OR SOMETHING?

...I THINK THAT COMING ON TO HONOKA-CHAN LIKE THAT WOULD MAKE ME FORGET ASAHINA? WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

DID...

...AKITSU-KI-KUN.

YOU'RE SCARING ME...

IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE, BUT...

I'D BET-TER GO APOLO-GIZE TO HER.

STING

WELL, HERE I AM...
NOW WHAT AM I GONNA SAY TO HER?
SHE MIGHT NOT EVEN WANNA TALK TO ME.

CLOPPA
CLOPPA
CLOPPA

SHUSSEI INARI SHRINE

AH...

W-
WAIT!

FWOOSH

AH...!

I'M
REALLY
SORRY
ABOUT
YESTERDAY.

I KNOW
YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
SEE ME,
BUT...

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

TH—

I JUST... WASN'T SURE HOW TO ACT... WHEN I SAW YOU AGAIN.

RUSTLE

BUT AFTER WHAT HAP-PENED YESTER-DAY...

I DON'T HATE YOU OR ANYTHING, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I- I'D...

HUH?

...NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.

HONOKA-CHAN...

. . . . . .

...HATE ME... DON'T YOU?

YOU PROB-ABLY...

HUH?

O-OF COURSE NOT!

I MEAN, I'M THE ONE WHO SCREWED UP.

IT WAS LIKE I WAS TRYING TO FORCE YOU OR SOME-THING...

A-AND...

UM....

. . . . . .

WHY WOULD I HATE YOU?

HUH?

I'M SO HAPPY.

YOU DON'T LOOK SCARY ANYMORE. YOU HAVE THAT USUAL AKITSUKI-KUN LOOK ON YOUR FACE.

STEP

AS LONG AS YOU STAY LIKE THIS...

...I WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU THREW ME TO THE GROUND, AND...

HUH?

...

I-I KNOW. IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY. I GET IT.

カクン NOD

カクン NOD

AH!

N-N-NO! I-I DON'T MEAN RIGHT NOW... I JUST... UM...

カアアア BLUSH

……

UM...

W-WELL...

DO YOU THINK MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE DINNER FOR ME AGAIN SOME TIME...?

SURE.

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

OKAY.

SHOULD I COME BY YOUR PLACE ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL?

Y-YEAH.

OKAY.

WELL... I GUESS I SHOULD HEAD BACK.

I GUESS...

IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME TO APOLOGIZE.

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT!

I'M NEVER GONNA HURT HONOKA-CHAN AGAIN.

カン CLOP カン CLOP

HUH?

ASAHIYU BATHS

WHAT-EVER... SO...

DID YOU AND HONOKA-CHAN MAKE UP?

AH!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING STANDING THERE, ASAHINA...

WH-WHAT WAS I DOING? N-NOTHING. I JUST GOT HOME.

OH YEAH? LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE KIND OF SPACING OUT.

ASAHINA BATIS

O-OH...

YOU DID?

WELL... THAT'S GOOD.

YEAH...

I THINK SO.

WHAT'S WITH HER?

.....?

SLAM

AH... WAIT.

CLICK

DINNER'S ALL READY.

YOU'D BETTER GET DRESSED AND COME DOWN.

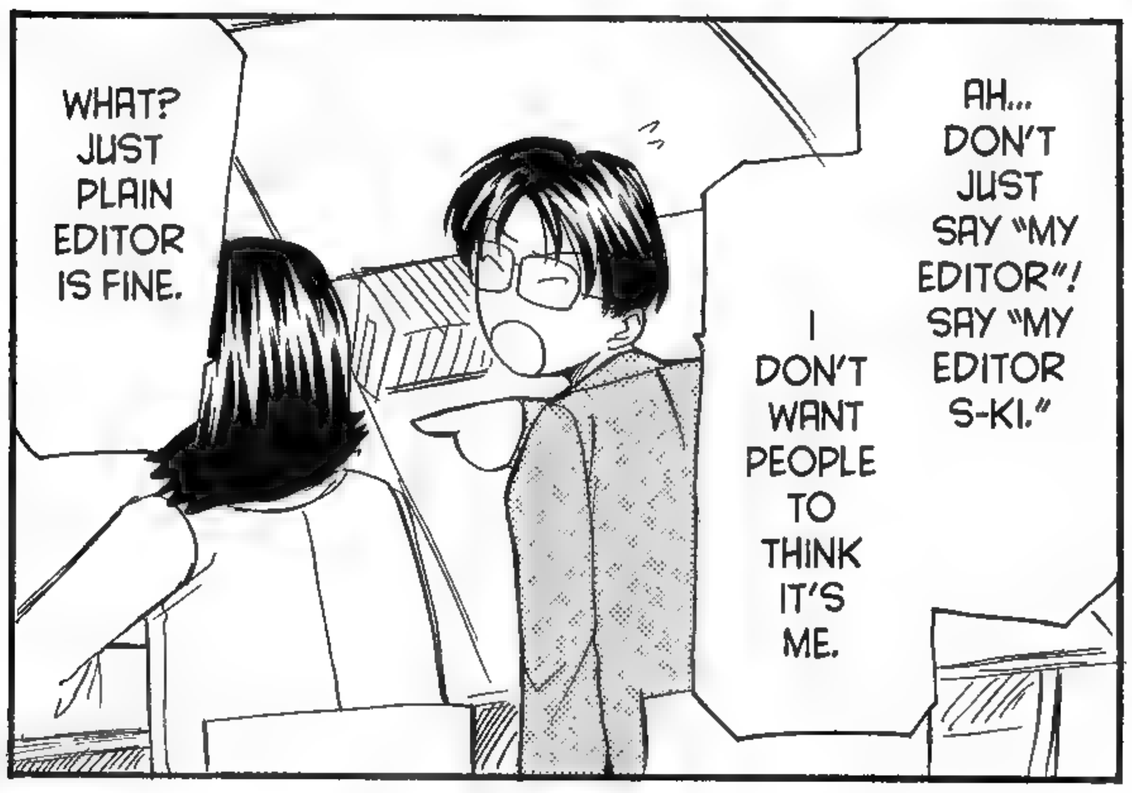
WHAT AM I...

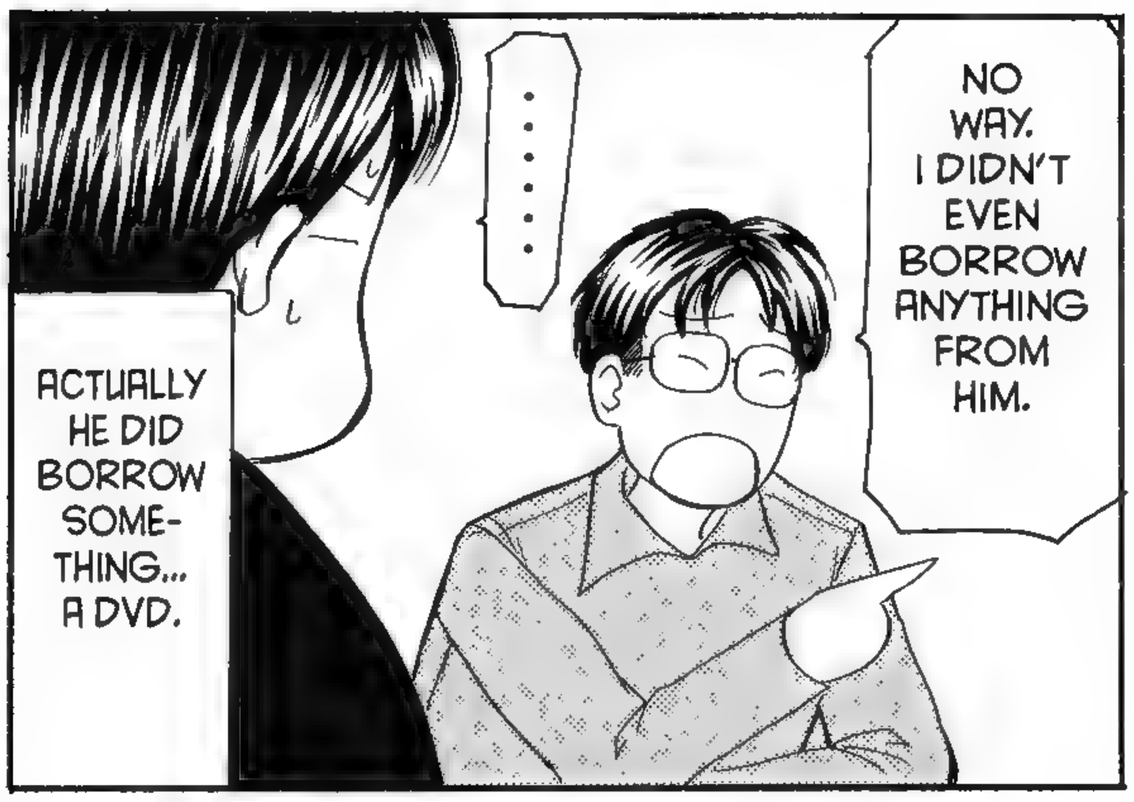
...DOING?

BONK

SUZUKA
FOUR-PANEL THEATER
NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN
A FORGETFUL LIFE

YOU'RE PA-THETIC.
AH! SORRY, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT. I'LL BRING IT.
HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE "MY EDITOR WON'T RETURN THE BOOK I LENT HIM, AND...
...I HATE HAVING TO KEEP ASKING FOR IT BACK."





SUZUKA

#45 FALL RAIN

HMM...

SO YOU MADE UP WITH SAKURAI...

SLURP

ズル ズル

SLURP

BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T DONE IT WITH HER?

SHUT UP.

I DON'T CARE. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M IN A HURRY OR ANYTHING.

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP. WITH GIRLS IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MOOD.

A REALLY SLICK GUY CAN SET UP THE PERFECT MOOD...

...AND TOTALLY MAKE HER WANT IT. IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SKILLS, MAN.

KEEP UP THAT ATTITUDE, AND YOU'RE JUST GONNA BLOW IT AGAIN.

IF YOU JUST MADE UP YOUR MIND THAT YOU WERE GONNA DO IT, YOUR INSTINCTS WOULD TOTALLY TAKE OVER.

I TOLD YOU I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT CRAP..

SHUT UP AND LISTEN! I'M TRYING TO HELP YOU!

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

I DON'T NEED YOUR FUCKING HELP!

HUH?

ALL YOU GUYS DO IS ARGUE.

HUH? UNDER-STAND WHAT?

YEAH, MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE HIM UNDER-STAND, HASHIBA.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? CAN I JOIN IN?

HUH?

FLIPPA

FLAPPA

HE WANTED TO SCREW SAKURAI, SO HE JUMPED HER, BUT—

WAAHHH! SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT!

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
YOU'RE A CHICK... WHEN YOU'RE GETTING READY TO DO IT, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MOOD, RIGHT?
LIKE SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO SWITCH THINGS UP, RIGHT... DO IT IN A NEW LOCATION OR SOMETHING.
WHAT THE HELL WOULD A PERVERT LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT SETTING THE MOOD?
I CAN SET THE MOOD JUST FINE AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT INVOLVED.
YANK
PERVERT! PERVERT! PERVERT!
WHACK
WHACK
WAH, QUIT IT, YOU IDIOT!
GOD...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.
YANK
YANK
LET'S MOVE OVER THERE, AKITSUKI! I DON'T WANT HIS STUPIDITY RUBBING OFF ON US.
THIS CONVER-SATION ISN'T OVER, YAMATO!
WHAT THE HELL DID HE EXPECT?

TSSS

GYM

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY!

HEH, IT'S GETTING A LOT EASIER.

NICE WORK TODAY, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN BENCH THAT MUCH.

CLANK

AHH!

SHIVER

YEAH... THAT DID LOOK PRETTY EASY.

OKAY! THREE MORE SETS FOR YOU.

WHAT? NO WAY! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO—

HE'S BACK AGAIN? DIDN'T HE GRADUATE?

WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA BE A SHORT DISTANCE RUNNER, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO BUILD UP THESE MUSCLES A LITTLE MORE.

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

GYAAAA, OKAY, I'LL DO IT! I'LL DO IT!

SLAP

SLAP

SCRUNCH

SCRUNCH

HUH?

WHAT WAS THAT?

AH, THAT'S OKAY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GO AHEAD.

UH, AKITSUKI-KUN... I HAVE PLANS, SO I CAN'T REALLY WAIT FOR—

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT SLACKING OFF.

I'LL BE SPYING ON YOU.

UH...

THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY HERE?

I'LL BE FINE. YASUNOBU'S STILL HERE.

AND I CAN ALWAYS CALL MIHO-CHAN IF I NEED TO.

TSSS

BUT IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE, AND YOU DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA, DID YOU, AKITSUKI-KUN?

WELL, OKAY THEN.

ARE YOU SURE?

.....

MIKI...

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR, SUZUKA? LET'S GO HOME!

LET'S GO HOME.

YEAH...

HEY, SUZUKA.

SINCE WE FINISHED EARLY TODAY, WE SHOULD GO TO A CAFÉ OR SOMETHING.

IT'S CHESTNUT SEASON, SO THEY'LL HAVE ALL KINDS OF TASTY CAKES.

WANNA GET SOME?

I'LL PASS.

AH...

I THINK I LEFT MY CELL PHONE BACK IN CLASS.

THAT'S OKAY, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

EATING ALONE IS NO FUN!

HUH?

I'M GONNA RUN AND GET IT.

AH, YOU CAN JUST HEAD HOME, MIKI.

COME ON, THEY'RE ONLY IN SEASON FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

TSSS

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T WANT ANY CAKE!

CLUNK

カリーン

HURRMPH.

SHIVER

SHIVER

SHIVER

ブルル

ブルル

ブルル

HAHH!

ALL RIGHT, JUST TWO MORE SETS TO GO.

IT'S EVEN HARDER WITH HIM WATCHING...

YEAH, YEAH...

GLANCE ちらっ

DON'T SLACK.

TICK チッ

TICK チッ

TOCK チッ

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, SUZUKA?

CLOP コツ

CLOP コツ

IT'S WEIRD. I SWEAR I LOOKED IN MY BAG, BUT...

YOU RAN AROUND EVERY-WHERE LOOKING FOR YOUR PHONE...

NOW COME ON, LET'S GO.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE YOU.

...AND ALL THIS TIME IT WAS RIGHT THERE IN YOUR BAG?

NOW WHAT?

AH.

A REPORT? I DIDN'T KNOW WE HAD A—

YEAH, IT'S JUST MY CLASS.

I'VE GOT A REPORT DUE TODAY.

I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT.

IT'S NOT FINISHED, SO I'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE, AND GET IT DONE.

.....

OKAY... GUESS I'LL JUST SPEND THE REST OF THE DAY ALL BY MYSELF.

WHAT?

FORGET ABOUT IT. LET'S JUST GO—

NO, I DON'T WANNA GET IN TROUBLE.

I CAN STILL GET IT IN ON TIME.

HUH?

PHEW, ALL DONE!

OH YEAH... IT'S RAINING, ISN'T IT?

YOU GUYS ARE STILL HERE?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

AH...

FWICK

YASUNO-BU'S PROBABLY HOME ALREADY.

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO CALL MIHO-CHAN.

OH, I WAS JUST HEADING HOME.

YAMATO-KUN...

HEY...

HUH?

. . . . . .

WHAT?

JUST...

...TAKE MINE...

UM...

YOU CAN BORROW IT.

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA—?

UH... BUT...

O- OKAY.

HUH?

I'LL BE OKAY. ME AND MIKI ARE GOING SOME- WHERE, SO...

I'LL JUST SHARE HERS.

OKAY.

THANKS... GUESS I'LL TAKE IT THEN.

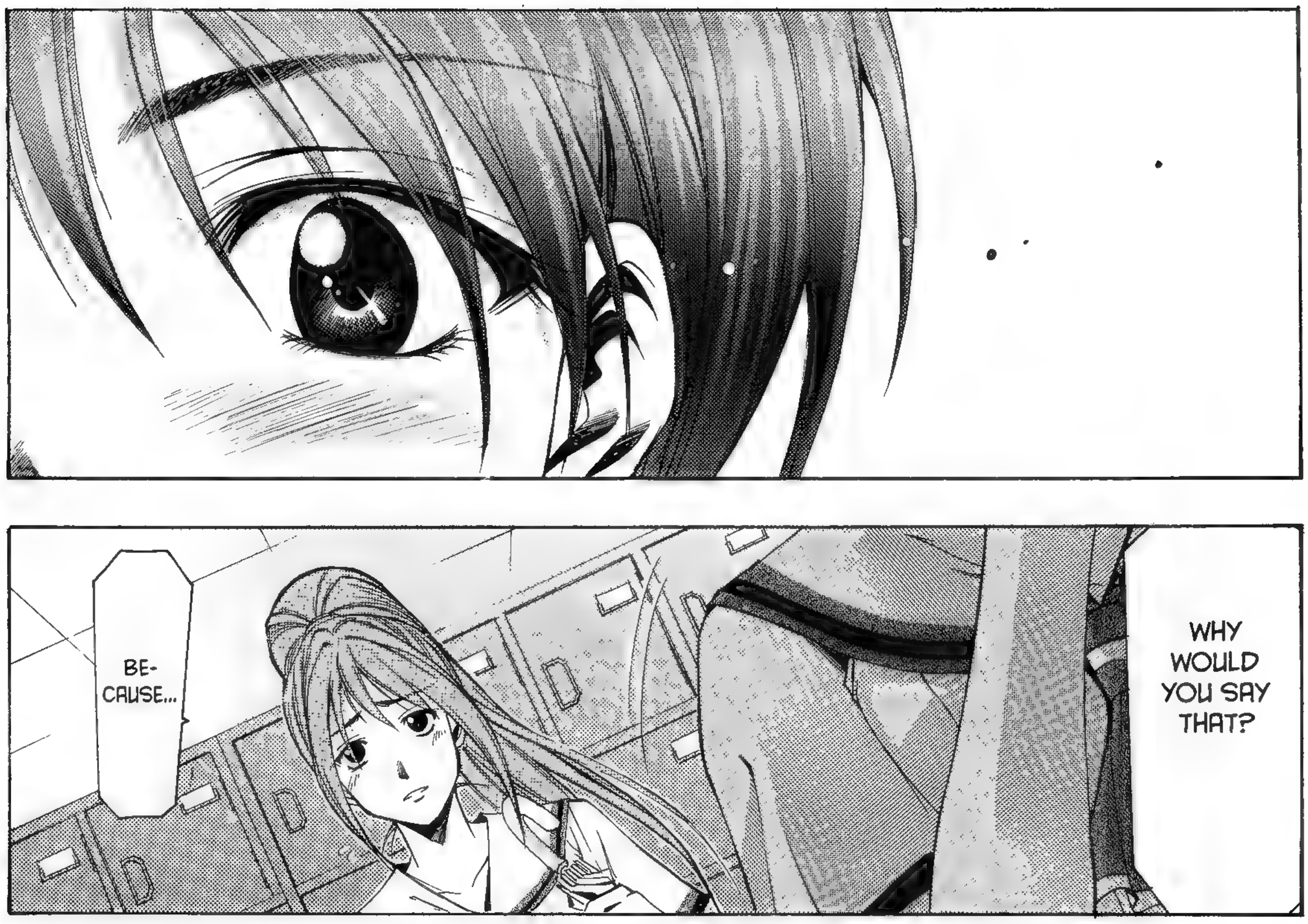
WHOOSH

HEY, SUZUKA...

ARE YOU...

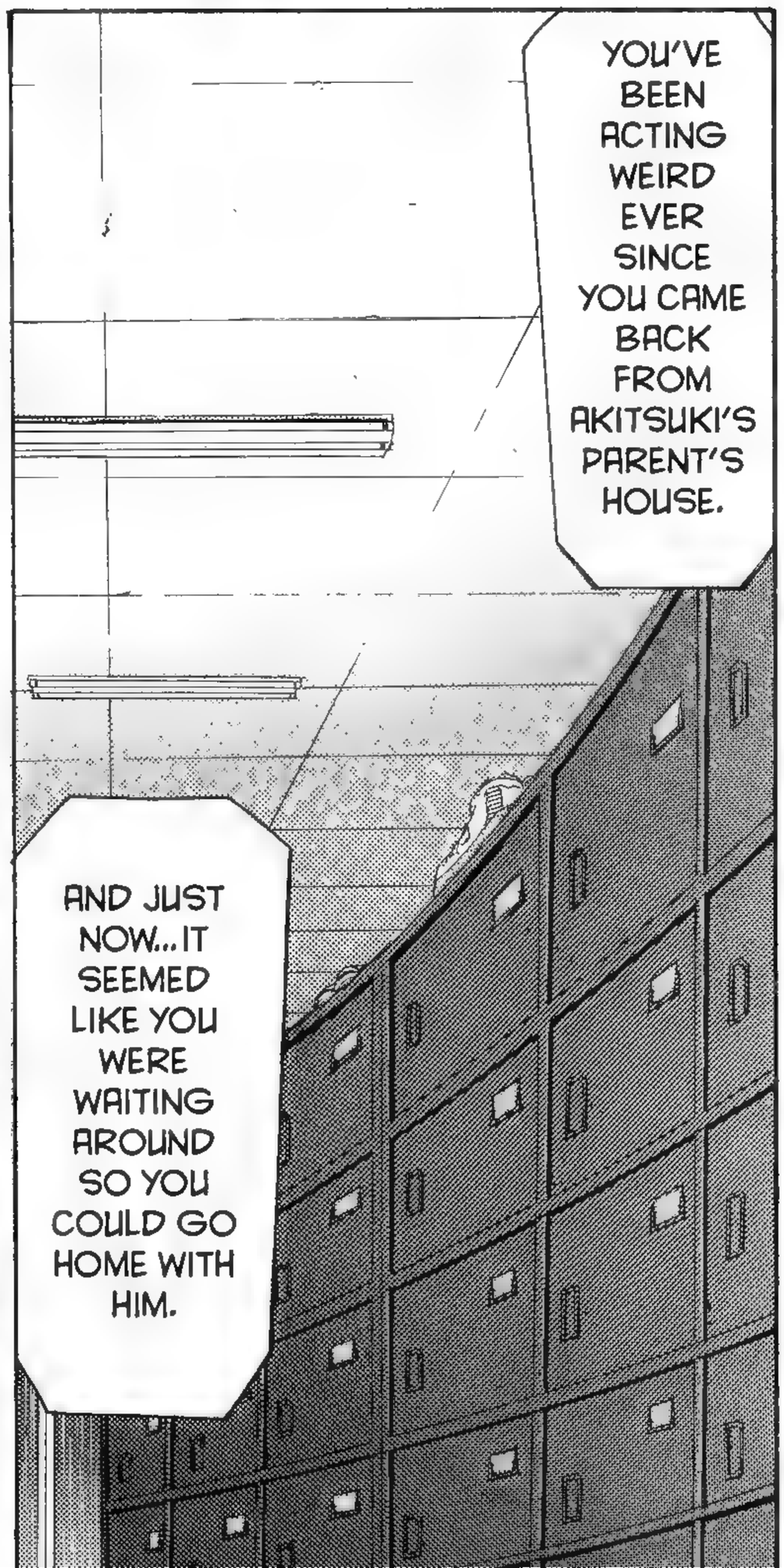
...IN LOVE...

...WITH AKITSUKI?


BE-
CAUSE...
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?

...

HUH?
I WAS NOT...


YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD EVER SINCE YOU CAME BACK FROM AKITSUKI'S PARENT'S HOUSE.
AND JUST NOW... IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE WAITING AROUND SO YOU COULD GO HOME WITH HIM.

I DON'T...

...HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR YAMATO-KUN WHATSOEVER!

OH... WELL, OKAY THEN.

.....

WHAT?

HUH? BUT YOUR REPORT...

LET'S GO, MIKI.

MAYBE I WILL HAVE SOME OF THAT CHESTNUT CAKE.

.....

NOTHING, NEVER MIND!

THIS ONE'S ON ME! SO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU WANT!

HUH? WHAT'S WITH YOU?

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 13

TETSUHITO KINUGASA
(HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR)

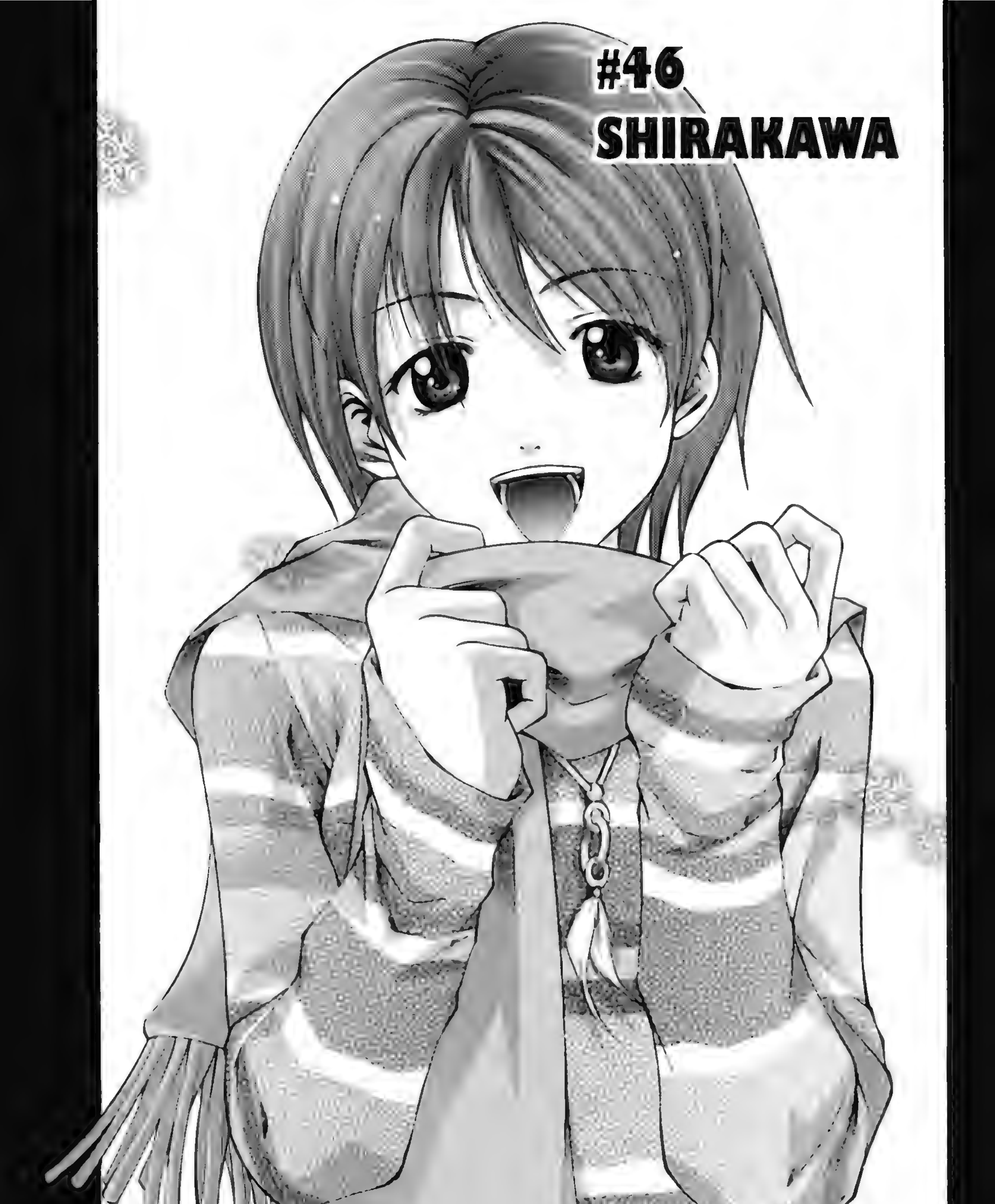
DATE OF BIRTH—MAY 10
(TAURUS)
HEIGHT—5'11"
WEIGHT—213 LBS
BLOOD TYPE—B

LIKES
•HARD WORK, GUTS, RESPECT, BROTHERHOOD
•CHICKEN BREASTS
•WEIGHT TRAINING

DISLIKES
•SLACKERS
•FATTENING FOODS
•DISORGANIZED LIFESTYLES

MOTTO—EVEN THE LONGEST JOURNEY BEGINS WITH THE FIRST STEP

#46
SHIRAKAWA



SUZUKA

I'M NANA.

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO MY MUSIC USING THE BEST TECHNOLOGY ON THE MARKET.

SALE

NOVELS

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU COME SHOPPING WITH ME.

THAT'S OKAY. THERE'S SOME STUFF I NEEDED TO GET ANYWAY.

FALL CLASSICS

YEAH.

I WANT ONE, BUT IT'S WAY TOO EXPENSIVE.

HUH?

YOINK

DO YOU LIKE GIRLS LIKE HER?

I'M NOT REALLY INTO FLASHY GIRLS LIKE THAT.

SHE'S NOT MY TYPE.

N-NO... I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT BUYING ONE OF THOSE MINIDISC PLAYERS THAT SHE'S ADVERTISING.

SALE

OH, OKAY...

THAT'S GOOD...

REALLY?

30V液晶
¥367500

NEW MODEL

LET'S GO HOME, IT'S GETTING DARK.

O-OKAY.

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.

MAKE SURE YOU COOL DOWN BEFORE YOU GO HOME.

YES, SIR!

HEY, AKITSUKI-KUN. SINCE YOU FINISHED SO EARLY, WE SHOULD GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.

HUH? YEAH, SURE.

OF COURSE THEY ARE. THEY'RE GOING OUT.

HUH?

TH-THOSE TWO SURE SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG WELL LATELY.

WHA—?

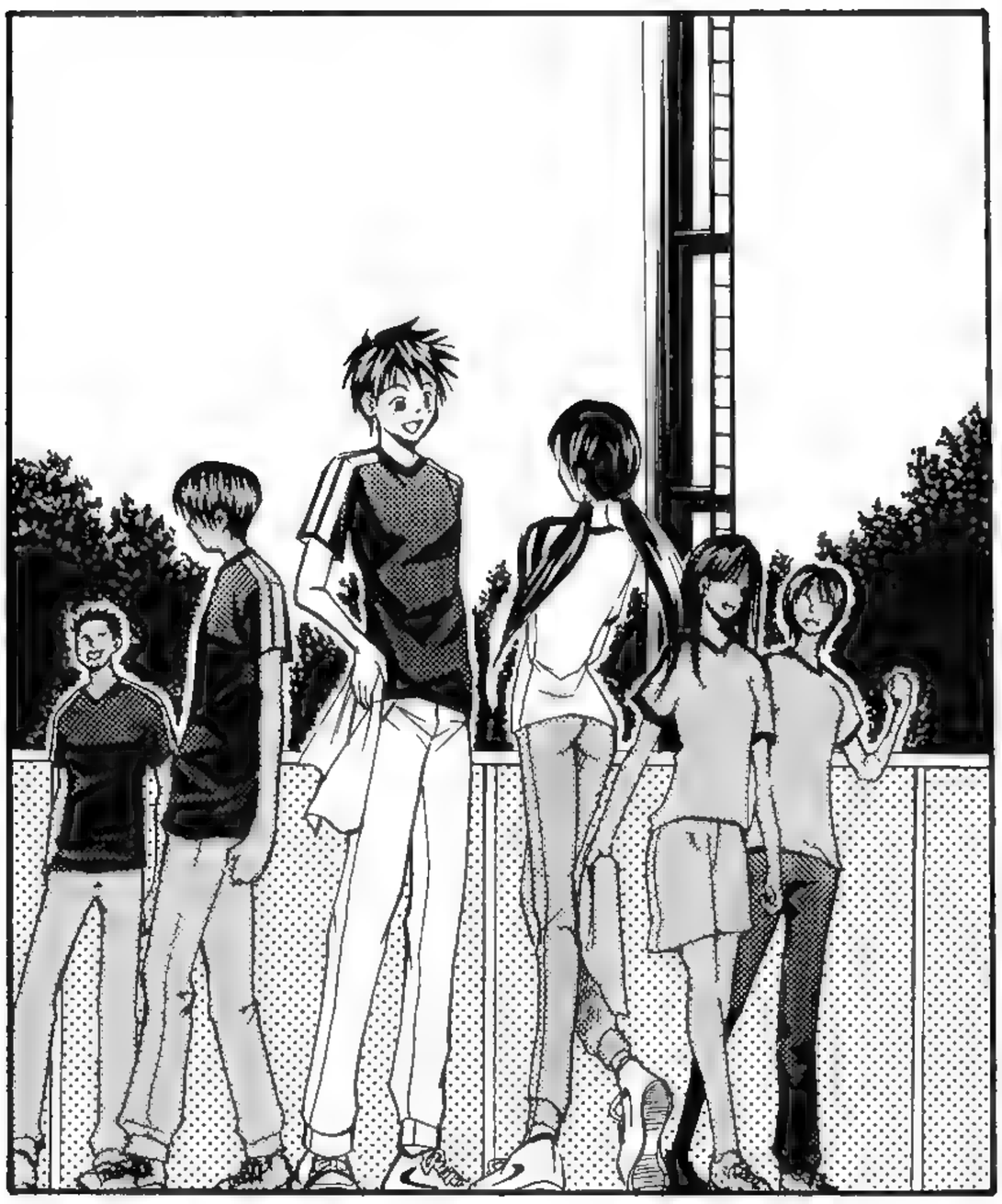
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

.....H"

BLUSH!

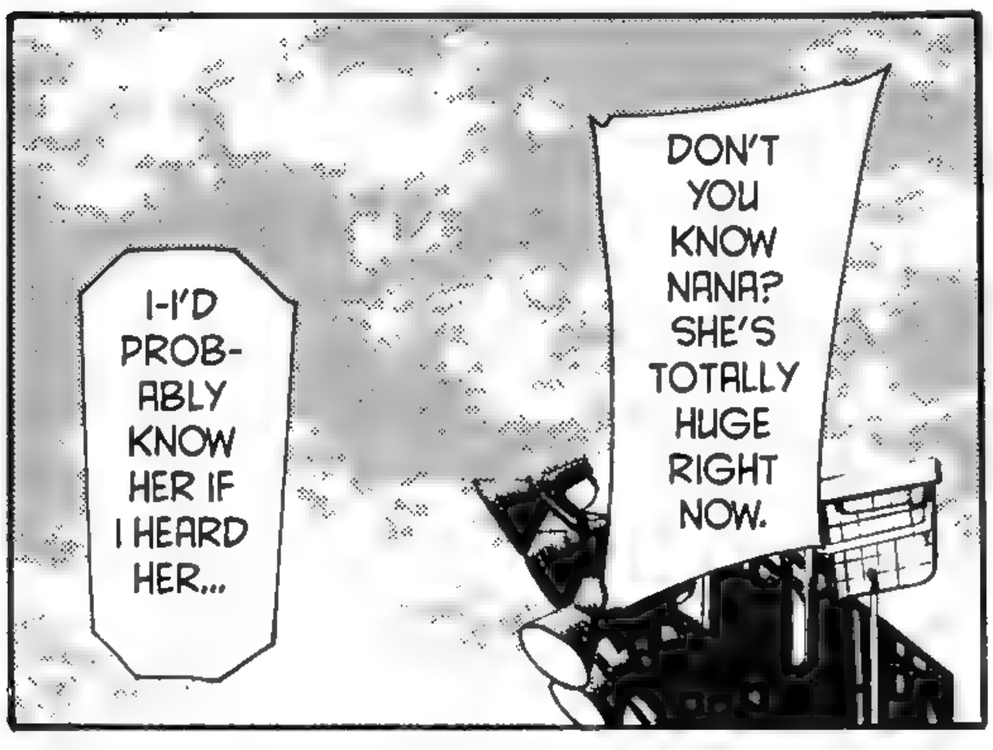
SERI-OUS-LY?

TRACK SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT WHO'S BEEN TURNED DOWN BY EVERY GIRL — KENJI KOBAYAKAWA-KUN



WHO'S NANA?
AH, WANNA GO DO KARA-OKE?
MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE NANA'S NEW SONG!

COME ON, LET'S GO HOME, SUZUKA!
HUH? OH... YEAH.


I-I'D PROB-ABLY KNOW HER IF I HEARD HER...
DON'T YOU KNOW NANA? SHE'S TOTALLY HUGE RIGHT NOW.

RESTAURANT CASA

ソワ JIGGLE

ソワ JIGGLE

ソワ FWIP

YOU OKAY, HONOKA-CHAN?

YOU SEEM A LITTLE RESTLESS.

……?

YEAH... YOU KEEP JIGGLING AROUND.

HUH? I DO?

HELLO.

I'VE GOT THIS FRIEND FROM JUNIOR HIGH WHO REALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU.

WELL, ACTUALLY...

I TEXTED HER, AND TOLD HER YOU FINISHED PRACTICE EARLY, AND SHE SAID SHE'D COME BY.

HUH? ME?

AH, THERE SHE IS!

BUT I'M NOT REALLY DRESSED UP OR ANYTHING.

NO, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

OH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU SEEM SO NERVOUS.

I'M SORRY, I KNOW IT'S NOT FAIR OF ME TO SPRING THIS ON YOU.

HUH?

AH!

HUH?

WH-
WHA-?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE WEARING A DISGUISE OR SOMETHING, NANA-CHAN?

...

SO THAT'S YOUR BOY-FRIEND, HONOKA?

FORGET THAT. IT'S TOO MUCH OF A PAIN.

YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH...

SORRY I'M LATE!

I HAD TO SNEAK OUT OF WORK.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

AH! SORRY. I'M NANA SHIRAKAWA.

.....

I WANT YOU TO LISTEN TO MY MUSIC USING THE BEST TECHNOLOGY ON THE MARKET.

UH.... YEAH, WELL...

SORRY, I GUESS THIS IS A LITTLE TOO SHOCKING FOR YOU.

UH...I WATCH ALL YOUR TV DRAMAS.

N-NICE TO MEET YOU!

I-I'M A FAN!

KARAOKE

BIG-WAKABA

3F

N-NO, I DON'T MIND GOING.

AH... BUT AKITSUKI-KUN HAS TO...

WE CAN'T REALLY RELAX AND TALK HERE. LET'S GO DO KARAOKE.

I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A TV DRAMA.

THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

Y- YEAH.

SO YOU GUYS WERE FRIENDS ALL THROUGH JUNIOR HIGH?

WOW.

AND MOST OF THE KIDS AT SCHOOL WOULDN'T EVEN TALK TO ME.

I WAS JUST STARTING TO GET POPULAR IN JUNIOR HIGH...

ONE DAY I DITCHED, BOUGHT A PACK OF SMOKES AND JUST HID OUT IN THIS SHRINE.

CLINK

YEAH, SO AFTER A WHILE, I JUST DIDN'T EVEN WANNA GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.

WOW, I GUESS LIFE AS A CELEBRITY IS PRETTY TOUGH.

YOU'RE WEARING MY SCHOOL'S UNIFORM.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T SMOKE!

HUH? LEAVE ME ALONE.

THEN THIS GIRL WORKING AT THE SHRINE CAME UP TO ME.

AT THAT MOMENT, I FELT A LITTLE BLOW TO MY PRIDE, BUT...

WH- WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP? YOU INTO COSPLAY OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING.

HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW ME?

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT ANYBODY HAD EVER TREATED ME LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.

NO!

WOULD YOU JUST PUT THAT CIGARETTE OUT?

HUH? IT'S NOT COSPLAY. HOW RUDE.

ME?

SO, AS HONOKA'S FRIEND, I CAME HERE TODAY TO TELL HER BOYFRIEND SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW, WE WERE FRIENDS.

I-IS THAT HOW YOU SAW IT?

SHUT UP, NANA-CHAN!

HONOKA HAS ZERO EXPERIENCE WITH GUYS, AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT DATING.

YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE GENTLE WITH HER!

SO DON'T TRY AND JUMP HER LIKE YOU DID THE OTHER DAY...

UM...

UH....

BLUSH

GEEZ!

FWUMP

NO, HONOKA! YOU HAVE TO MAKE THESE THINGS CLEAR OR...

TH-THAT'S ENOUGH, NANA-CHAN!

AH... WHERE'RE YOU GOING, HONOKA?

THE BATH-ROOM!

SLAM

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT!

O-OKAY...

WELL, WHATEVER. WHY DON'T YOU SING SOME-THING, YAMATO-KUN?

I FEEL LIKE RUNNING AWAY, TOO.

WHENEVER THINGS GET TENSE, SHE ALWAYS TRIES TO RUN AWAY.

YEAH, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO SING. I'LL JUST LISTEN.

HEY, YOU MIND IF I DO SOME PRACTICE SONGS?

THERE'S A FEW SONGS I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN PULL 'EM OFF.

YEAH, I WILL IF I FEEL LIKE IT.

WHAT? YOU HAVE TO SING, TOO, SUZUKA.

CARP! CARP! CARP! HIRO-SHIMA!

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF SONG IS THAT?

.....!

GRR

?

SLAM

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

ASAHINA?

AH...

WHAT?

NO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'NO'?

YOU'VE ONLY BEEN GOING OUT WITH HONOKA-CHAN FOR ONE MONTH, AND YOU'RE ALREADY CHEATING ON HER?

YOU ARE SUCH A JERK!

WHO'S THAT?

SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS, YAMATO-KUN?

HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SUZUKA?

WHAT AM I DOING?

I-I WAS JUST...

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING SINGING WITH NANA?

HUH?

WHA-? NANA SHIRAKAWA?

NO!

YANK

WHAT'S THE DEAL, YAMATO-KUN? ARE THESE YOUR GIRLFRIENDS, TOO?

H-HELLO.

GYAA

GYAA

SHUT UP.

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH NANA, AKITSUKI-KUN?

THEY'RE JUST MY—

THEN WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?

THUMP

THUMP

THUMP

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU.

OH, THEY'RE JUST YOUR FRIENDS FROM THE TRACK TEAM?

I THOUGHT—

CLINK

Y-YOU WERE?

I WAS PRETTY SHOCKED TO FIND OUT THAT YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH NANA SHIRAKAWA, HONOKA-CHAN.

SORRY.

ぼそっ MUMBLE

STEP

TH-THAT'S OKAY.

HUH? OH YEAH!

UM... NANA-CHAN...

OKAY, I'LL GO TELL THE FRONT DESK.

SIT DOWN, YOU GUYS.

HUH? DON'T YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK?

AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT ALL YOUR TRACK BUDDIES HERE, WE SHOULD ALL DO KARAOKE TOGETHER!

REALLY? YOU SURE YOU DON'T MIND?

I'VE GOTTA MAKE ROOM FOR MIKI, SO I'M GONNA SCOOT NEXT TO YOU A LITTLE, OKAY?

O-OKAY...

.....

WHY DON'T YOU SCOOT OVER THIS WAY A LITTLE, AKITSUKI-KUN?

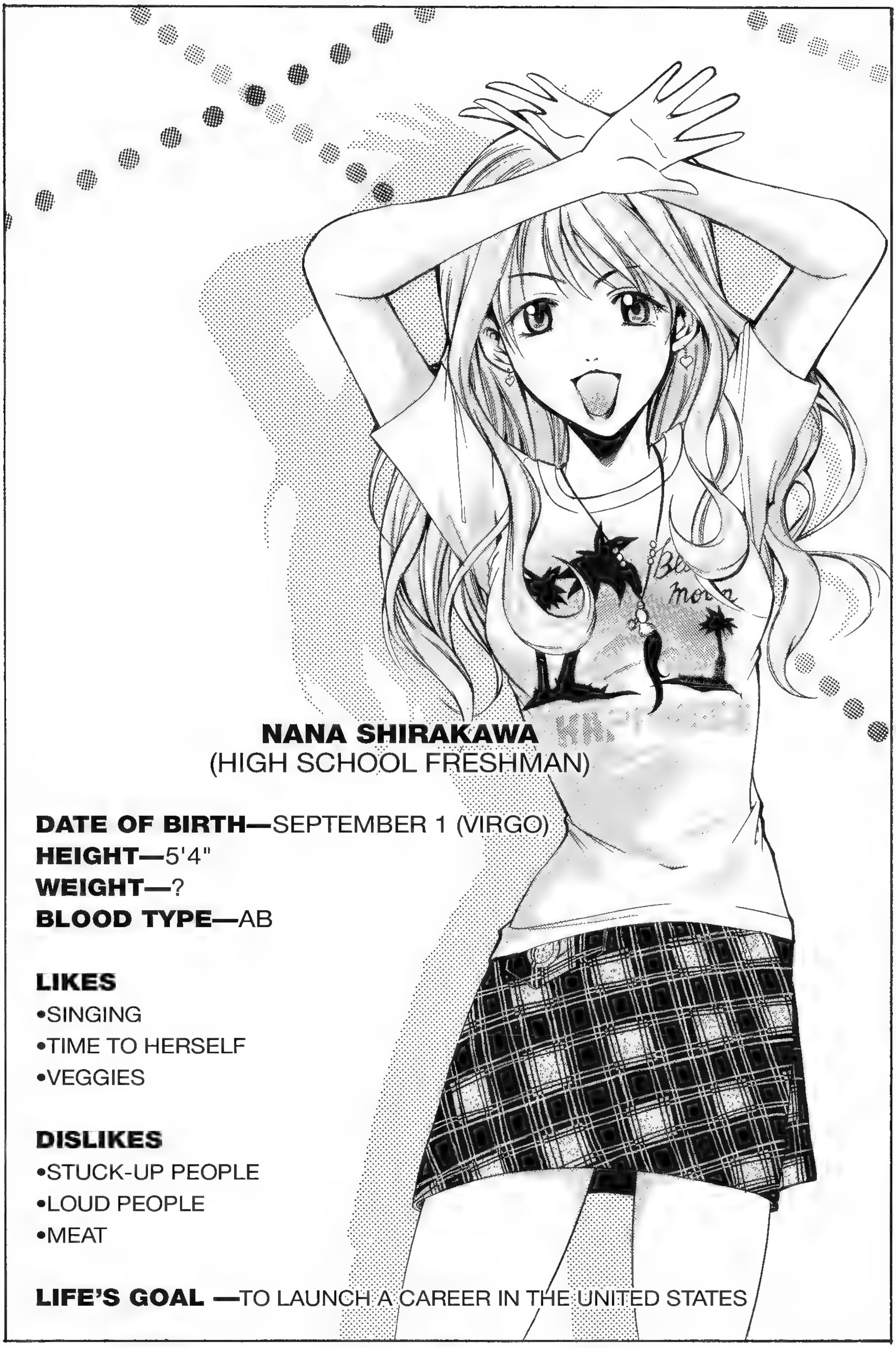
HUH?

O-OKAY...

HMM...

I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON...

CHARACTER PROFILE NO. 14



NANA SHIRAKAWA
(HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN)

DATE OF BIRTH—SEPTEMBER 1 (VIRGO)
HEIGHT—5'4"
WEIGHT—?
BLOOD TYPE—AB

LIKES
- SINGING
- TIME TO HERSELF
- VEGGIES

DISLIKES
- STUCK-UP PEOPLE
- LOUD PEOPLE
- MEAT

LIFE'S GOAL —TO LAUNCH A CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES

NEXT I'D LIKE TO SING A NEW SONG!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE THE ACTUAL ARTIST HERE SINGING HER OWN SONGS.

ALL RIGHT! SING IT, NANA!

.....

GO, NANA-CHAN!

THANKS!

Xゲーム

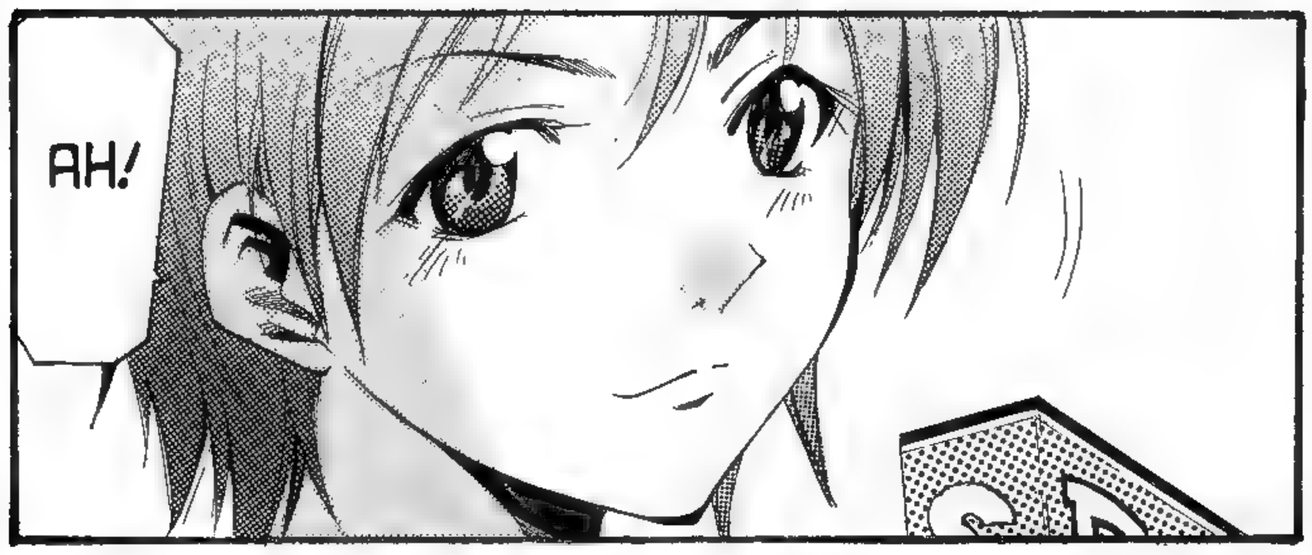
THAT WAS AWE-SOME, NANA!

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S NOT GETTING INTO IT.

SUZUKA

#47 BOYFRIEND

HUH? OKAY.
COME ON, SUZUKA! YOU SING ONE!


AH!

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE NOT HAVING FUN? WHY DON'T YOU SING SOMETHING?
Y- YEAH, IN A MINUTE.

WAIT, CAN YOU ONLY SING BASEBALL SONGS? IS THAT IT?
HUH?

WHAT?

WH—

ARE YOU TONE DEAF OR SOME-THING?

YOU'VE BARELY SUNG ANYTHING AT ALL.

I-I CAN'T WAIT, AKITSUKI-KUN.

FLIP

FLIP

THE HELL I AM. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT KARAOKE'S ALL ABOUT.

ALL RIGHT!

BEEP

FLIP

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN JUST SIT HERE AND LET HER CALL ME TONE DEAF.

HUH? THAT'S THE SAME SONG I JUST PUT IN, YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT, YOU'RE GONNA SING THAT ONE, ASAHINA?

LET'S SEE, GOTTA PICK SOME-THING I'M GOOD AT...

WHY? YOU GUYS SHOULD JUST DO IT AS A DUET.

NO WAY.

OKAY, GUESS I'LL HAVE TO PICK SOME-THING ELSE...

BAM

UH... I GUESS WE COULD DO THAT.

.....

IT'S...

SHUT UP! YOU'D BETTER GET READY TO BE ROCKED!

HERE'S THE MIKE. DON'T SCREW UP.

...OKAY BY ME.

HUH? I-IS SOME-THING WRONG.
NO...

OH.
OKAY.

AH! YOU KNOW WHAT, I THINK I PRO-GRAMMED THE WRONG SONG.
YOU GO AHEAD AND SING IT YOUR-SELF, ASAHINA.
HUH?

UH... UM...

AKITSUKI-KUN...

S-SORRY.

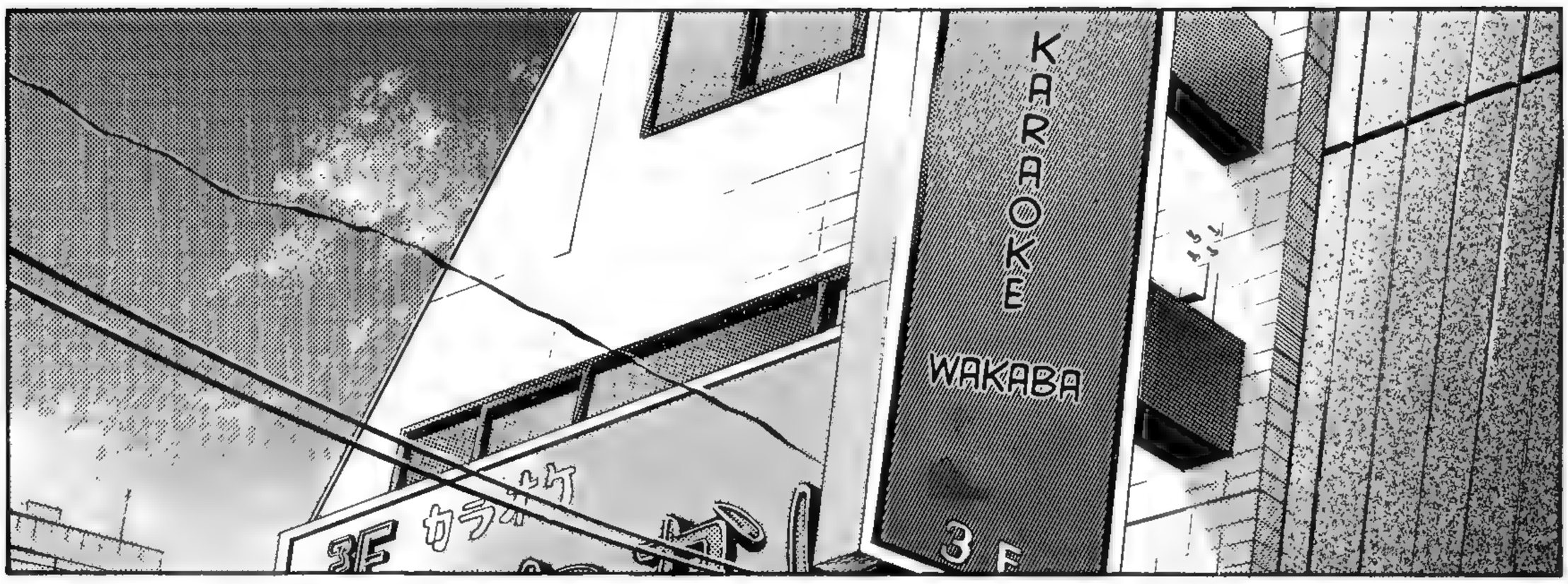
I GUESS I PUT IN THE WRONG NUMBER.

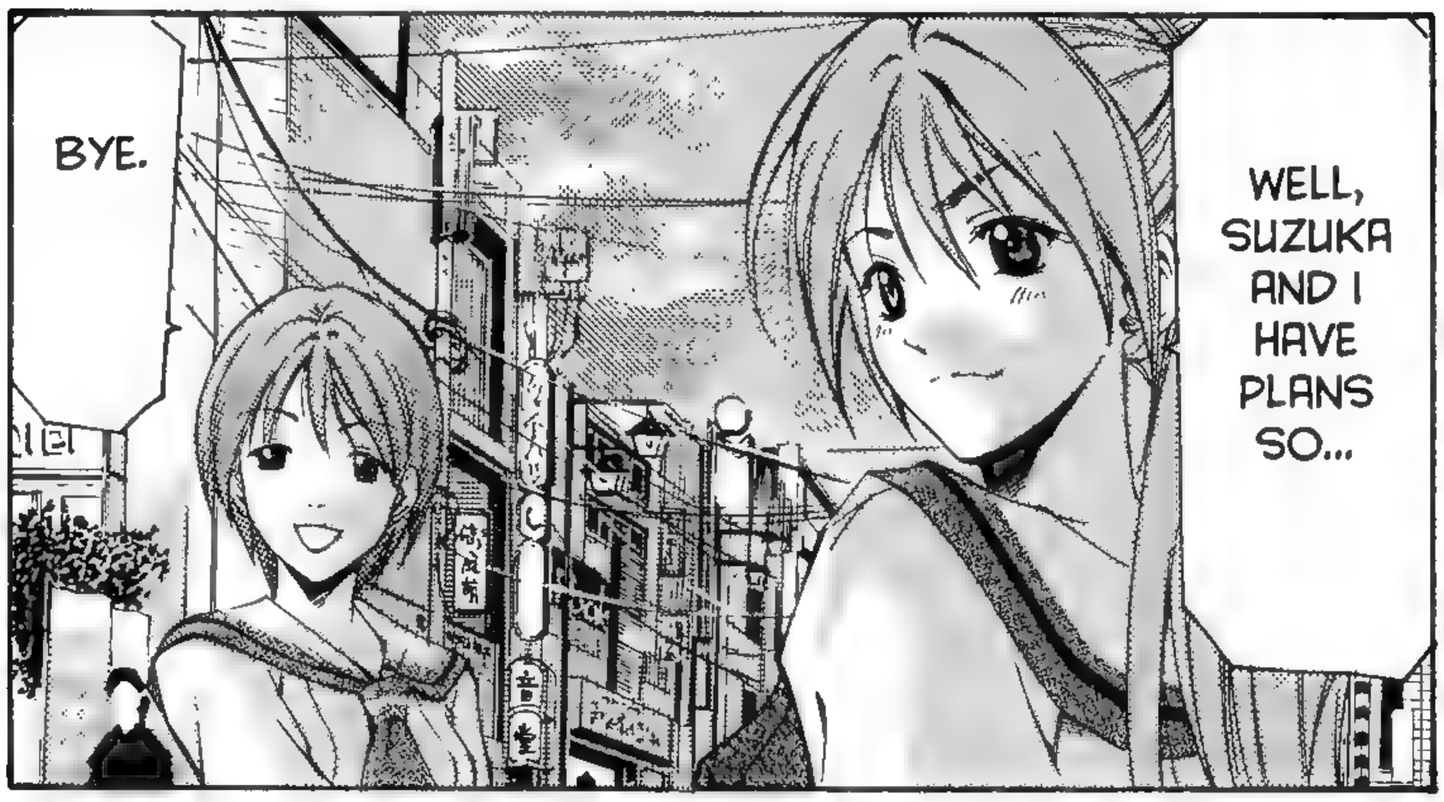
SWIP

.....

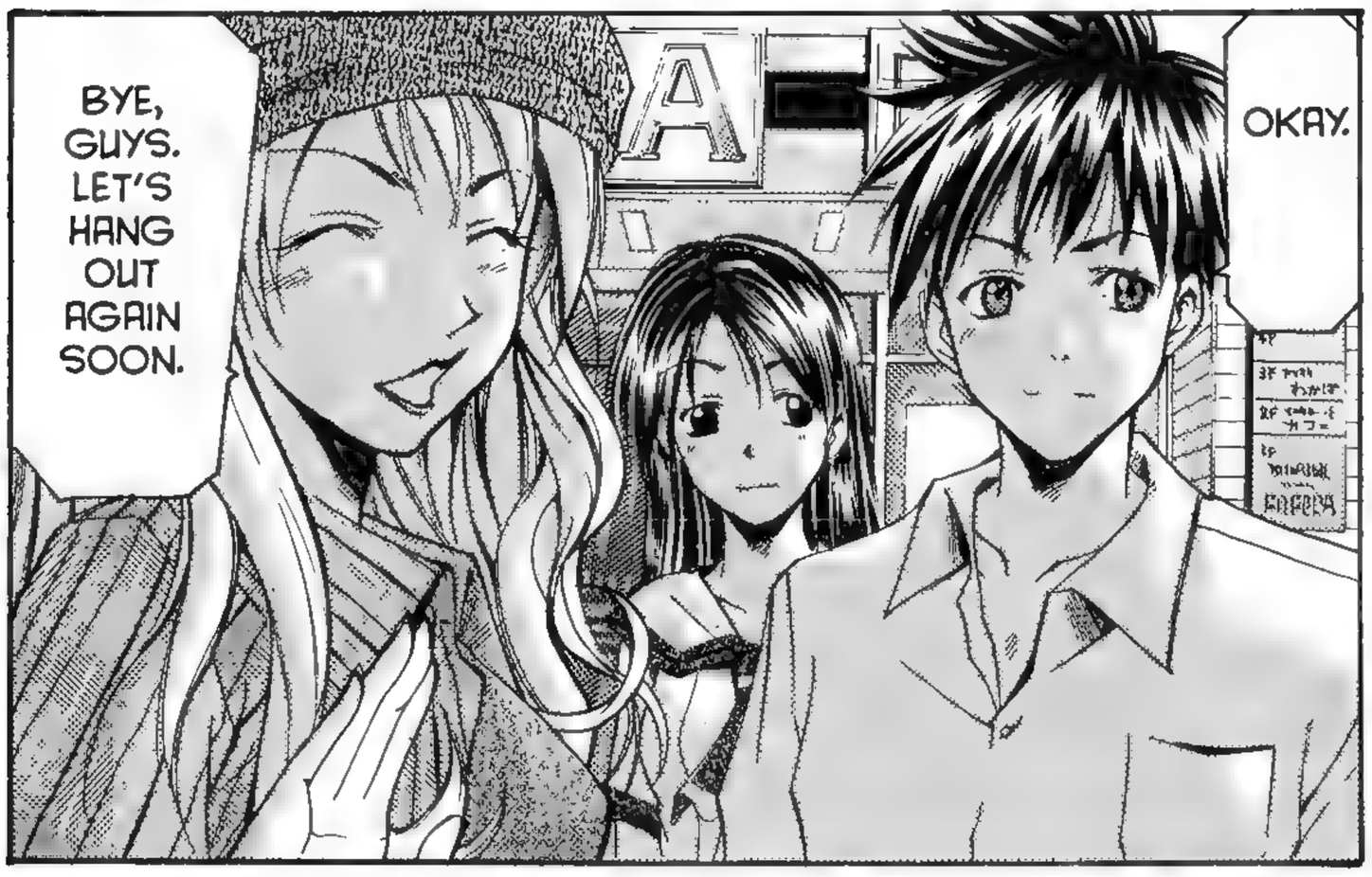
I SWORE THAT I WOULD NEVER HURT HONOKA-CHAN AGAIN.

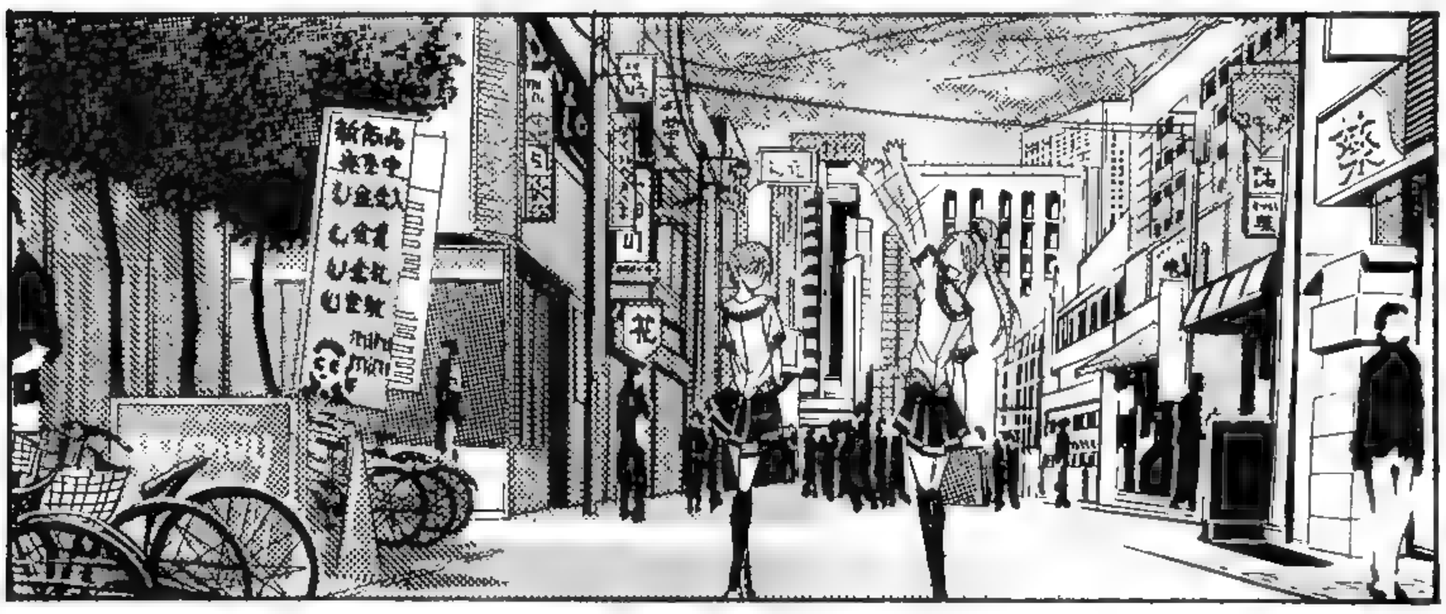
THAT'S RIGHT...


KARAOKE
WAKABA


BYE.
WELL, SUZUKA AND I HAVE PLANS SO...

WOO! WE REALLY SANG OUR HEARTS OUT.
YEAH, THAT WAS FUN.


BYE, GUYS. LET'S HANG OUT AGAIN SOON.
OKAY.



AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I GUESS I'LL WALK YOU HOME, HONOKA-CHAN.

WELL...

UM, WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO, NANA-CHAN?

WELL... I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD BACK HOME.

I- I WON'T!

I'VE GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON YAMATO-KUN FOR YOU... MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TRY ANYTHING WEIRD AGAIN!

NO PROBLEM.

THANKS FOR WALKING ME HOME, NANA-CHAN.

WHAT-EVER.

I'D BEEN WANTING TO VISIT THE SHRINE WHERE YOU FIRST YELLED AT ME ANYWAY.

I'LL CALL YOU.

HAVE A NICE WALK HOME, AKITSUKI-KUN.

WELL, I'M GONNA CALL A CAB AND HAVE THEM COME PICK ME UP.

OKAY.

BYE, HO-NOKA.

YEAH, THANKS.

HUH?

YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY-FRIEND, YAMATO-KUN.

STEP

STEP

YOU'RE SO NICE.... HONOKA CAN REALLY COUNT ON YOU.

I WAS WATCH-ING YOU ALL DAY...

I-I'M THE ONE WHO'S HAPPY.

HONOKA-CHAN IS A GREAT COOK... AND SHE'S REALLY CUTE, AND...

FWUP

I THINK SHE'S REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE FOUND A BOYFRIEND LIKE YOU, YAMATO-KUN.

SHE'S WAY TOO GOOD FOR ME.

...THAT I HAVE TO BECOME A BETTER BOY-FRIEND...

...SO THAT I NEVER HURT HONOKA-CHAN AGAIN.

SO, I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER...

ARE YOU A COMPLETE IDIOT?

.....

HUH?

.....

A SECOND AGO YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW NICE I WAS. YOU'RE CRAZY.

WH- WHAT THE HELL?

COME ON. A BOYFRIEND THAT WILL NEVER HURT HONOKA?

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

Y- YEAH...

WHEN WE WERE DOING KARAOKE... YOU DECIDED NOT TO SING WITH SUZUKA-CHAN BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID YOU'D HURT HONOKA'S FEELINGS... RIGHT?

YOU WEREN'T DOING IT BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO, YOU ONLY HELD HER HAND BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID SHE WAS GONNA GET UPSET.

AND THEN YOU HELD HONOKA'S HAND...

IS THAT YOUR IDEA OF BECOMING A "BETTER BOY-FRIEND"?

SH-SHUT UP!

IT'S JUST THAT, IF YOU THINK THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE A GOOD BOYFRIEND, THEN YOU'RE AN IDIOT, YAMATO-KUN.

O-OKAY, SO WHAT SHOULD I HAVE DONE?

SHOULD I HAVE JUST SANG WITH SUZUKA AND TURNED MY BACK ON HONOKA-CHAN?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING.

DON'T GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CELEBRITY.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S AN IDIOT!

?……

YOU'RE JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID, YAMATO-KUN.

YOU HIDE BEHIND ALL THIS BULLSHIT, AND THEN WHEN SOMEONE CALLS YOU ON IT, YOU THROW A TANTRUM.

QUIT TRYING TO PULL OFF THAT IDIOTIC "PERFECT BOYFRIEND" CRAP. IT'S ALL JUST AN ACT!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST BE YOURSELF IN FRONT OF HONOKA?

OH, IS THAT RIGHT?

WELL, IT SURE SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TRYING AWFULLY HARD TO ME.

I-IT'S NOT AN ACT!

I AM NOT.

I'M JUST BEING MYSELF!

UH...

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF STUFF HONOKA LIKES, OR WHAT HER HOBBIES ARE...

OR HOW ABOUT HER BIRTHDAY? WHAT DAY IS IT?

HH

TSSS

.....

ARE YOU REALLY IN LOVE WITH HONOKA?

SEE?

I GUESS I DON'T...

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO HER.

YOU'RE TOO BUSY TRYING TO PULL OFF YOUR WHOLE "PERFECT BOYFRIEND" ACT, SO THAT YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.

...REALLY KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HER.

IF YOU GO INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HER...

THEN OF COURSE YOU'RE GONNA END UP HURTING HONOKA! IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HONOKA-CHAN.

I MEAN... I HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED TO GET TO KNOW HER.

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HER BOYFRIEND...

BUT WHY?

HUH?

IT'S SEPTEMBER 16.

AHH....

HONOKA'S BIRTHDAY.

SLAP

OUCH.

LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TRYING TO BREAK YOU GUYS UP OR ANYTHING...

JUST, GET YOUR SHIT TO-GETHER.

YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP AND FIND A PRESENT FOR HER!

...GETTING TO KNOW HONOKA FOR REAL.

I JUST WANT YOU TO QUIT BULL-SHITTING, AND START...

O-OKAY.

WHOOSH

THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.

BYE.

GET TO KNOW...

...HONOKA-CHAN FOR REAL...?

HYUUU

#48
ADVICE

SUZUKA

MIHO! I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUT GORO-CHAN IN THE BATHS, DIDN'T I?

BUT...

NO, GORO-CHAN! RUN AWAY!

GET OVER HERE, GORO-CHAN.

WHOOSH

AH.

MEOW.

SPLASH

PUT HIM OUTSIDE, MIHO! I DON'T WANT HIM SHED-DING IN THE BATHS.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER? WE'RE GONNA DRAIN THEM ANYWAY.

...GETTING TO KNOW HONOKA FOR REAL.

I JUST WANT YOU TO QUIT BULL SHITTING, AND START...

.....

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

HERE I AM TRYING TO BE THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND, AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW MY OWN GIRLFRIEND'S BIRTHDAY.

HONOKA'S BIRTHDAY!

IT'S SEPTEMBER 16TH!

MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT...

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WORRYING ABOUT MYSELF, I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO HONOKA-CHAN.

I'M GONNA GIVE HER THE BEST BIRTHDAY PRESENT SHE'S EVER GOTTEN...

I'M GONNA GO SHOPPING FOR A PRESENT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

FWISH

THAT'S IT!

FROM NOW ON, I REALLY WILL BE THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND.

...SO NANA-CHAN ENDED UP BEING LATE FOR WORK.

THAT'S WHAT SHE GETS FOR CONVINC-ING US ALL TO DO AN EXTRA TWO HOURS OF KARAOKE.

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PRESENT HONOKA-CHAN WOULD LIKE.

コツ STEP

コツ STEP

.....

OF COURSE I COULD JUST ASK HER, BUT...

N-NOTH-ING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I REALLY WANNA SURPRISE HER, SO...

WELL, WE DON'T HAVE SCHOOL, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER.

HUH? WHY?

AH...

HEY. AKITSUKI-KUN.

ARE YOU FREE TOMOR-ROW?

HUH?

OH, UH.... ACTUALLY I HAVE PLANS.

PLANS?

UH, UM...

AH!

NO, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

O-OH, OKAY THEN.

SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD PLANS.

SORRY, BUT YOUR BIRTHDAY'S IN TWO DAYS.

I'VE GOTTA GET YOU A PRESENT TOMORROW.

YASUNOBU! I MADE PLANS TO HANG OUT WITH YASUNOBU!

ROSES!

BUT WHAT IN THE HECK WOULD HONOKA-CHAN WANT FOR HER BIRTHDAY?

YOU GET HER ONE RED ROSE FOR EVERY YEAR OLD SHE IS. THAT'S THE PERFECT GIFT!

HUH?

NO GIRL CAN RESIST A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS FROM A GUY SHE LIKES.

I TOLD YOU, DUDE.

GIRLS ARE BORN ROMAN-TICS.

QUIT JOKING AROUND, MAN. I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

I'M NOT JOKING!

YEAH, SURE... IT WORKS FOR YOU, BUT...

IT WORKS FOR ME EVERY TIME!

CLINK
カラ
カラ?
CLINK
...THAN MAKING YOUR GIRLFRIEND HAPPY. IS THAT HOW IT IS?
OH, I GET IT. SO, YOU'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING EMBARRASSED...
HUH?
I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO GO INTO A FLOWER SHOP, AND BUY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
OH NO, I'M DOING IT AGAIN.
N-NO...
ROSES?
BUT... ROSES...
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD THE EXPRESSION...
"A MAN MUST SOMETIMES SACRIFICE HUMILITY FOR THE LOVE OF A WOMAN?"
カリ
SLAM
UH...
I'LL ASK A FEW OTHER PEOPLE, AND THEN I'LL MAKE UP MY MIND.
I'M TELLING YOU, DUDE! IT'LL WORK.
ALL RIGHT... I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?

YEAH.

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT, AYANO-SAN?

LET'S SEE...

AS LONG AS I COULD TELL HE PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO IT, I'D BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT HE GAVE ME.

UH... CAN YOU BE A LITTLE MORE SPECIFIC?

WHAT? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PRESENT FOR SAKURAI-SENPAI?

YEAH! SAKURAI-SENPAI IS REALLY GIRLY, SO...

I BET SHE LOVES TEDDY BEARS!

GET HER A STUFFED ANIMAL, YAMATO-KUN!

A STUFFED ANIMAL?

HMM...

YEAH, I COULD SEE THAT, BUT...IT SEEMS A LITTLE CHILDISH.

GET HER A BULGARI NECKLACE.

FUU

SHIVER

LISTEN, YAMATO-KUN. THE PRICE OF THE PRESENT IS THE ONLY TRUE MEASURE OF LOVE.

ANY GUY WHO GIVES HIS GIRLFRIEND A CHEAP- ASS PIECE OF JUNK FOR A BIRTHDAY PRESENT IS A WORTHLESS TOOL.

HEY! GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU PERVERT!

WHAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE A FUN CONVERSATION, THAT'S ALL.

PLUP

PLUP

YUUKA-SAN... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

YEAH, YOU WOULDN'T, RIGHT, MEGUMI-SAN?

I WOULDN'T MIND GETTING A CHEAP PRESENT.

NOT EVERY-ONE'S AS SHALLOW AS YOU ARE!

JUST GET AWAY FROM YAMATO-KUN!

OUCH! QUIT SCRATCH-ING ME, MIHO-CHAN!

SHUT UP, YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.

I JUST WANT A NICE RING FOR MY LEFT HAND... FOR MY RING FINGER... JUST LIKE AYANO-SAN'S.

NO... I DON'T CARE IF IT'S CHEAP.

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SHOCK

COULD YOU SOUND ANY MORE DESPER-ATE?

HUH?

RUSTLE

NO WAY! GET HER A BULGARI NECKLACE. OR A HERMÈS BAG... THAT'LL WORK, TOO.

I'M TELLING YOU, JUST GET HER A TEDDY BEAR!

OKAY, FINE. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET NAKED, AND TIE A RIBBON AROUND YOUR NECK?

THEN JUST SAY, HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.

TRY THINKING OF SOMETHING YOURSELF!

GRR

STOP JOKING AROUND, AND HELP ME THINK OF SOME-THING.

GOD, YOU REALLY ARE WORTH-LESS.

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU.

OKAY?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HEARD EVERYONE'S ADVICE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX AND THINK IT OVER?

NOW, NOW...

N-NAKED?

EVERY-ONE'S ADVICE, HUH?

O-OKAY.

SUGGESTIONS 1&2

GET A TEDDY BEAR HOLDING A BOUQUET OF ROSES, AND...

SUGGESTIONS 3&4

...WEARING A BULGARI NECKLACE AND AN ENGAGEMENT RING.

SUGGESTIONS 5&6

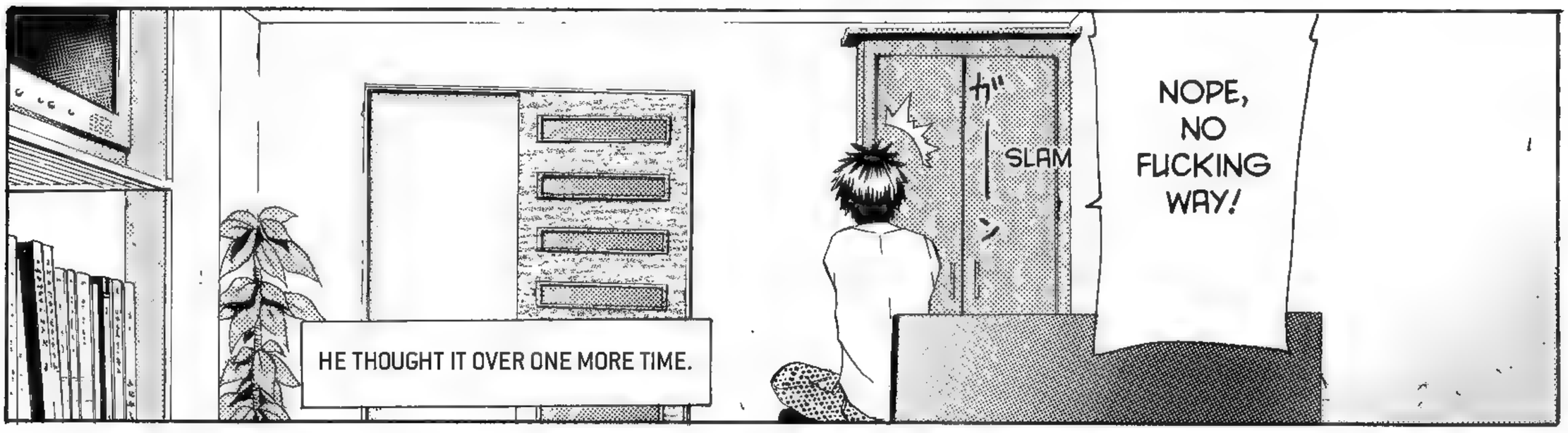
AND THEN GET NAKED, TIE A RIBBON AROUND MY NECK, WALK UP TO HONOKA-CHAN...

.....

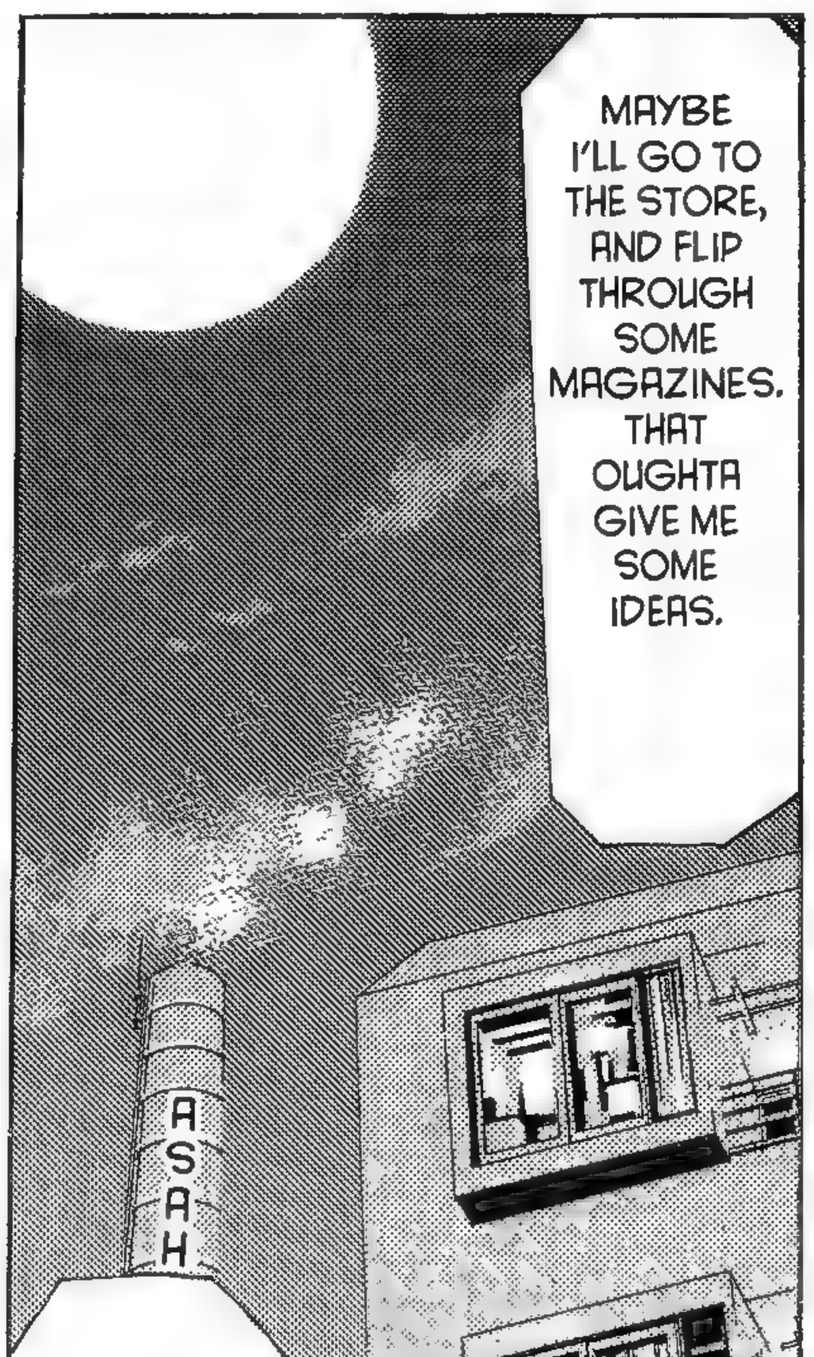
AND SAY...

HERE'S YOUR PRESENT.

HELL, NO!
DING
THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION


NOPE, NO FUCKING WAY!
SLAM
HE THOUGHT IT OVER ONE MORE TIME.

FLIP
パラッ


MAYBE I'LL GO TO THE STORE, AND FLIP THROUGH SOME MAGAZINES. THAT OUGHTA GIVE ME SOME IDEAS.
ASAH
I JUST NEED SOMETHING SIMPLE.

THIS SUCKS.
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY-THING.
カフェ!
10

HMM...
NOTHING REALLY STICKS OUT.
FLIP
パラ

!?

AH, ASAHINA! NO, I WAS—

ZETS

SLAM

AH!

YOU'RE READING A PORNO MAG!

ISN'T THAT A GIRLS' MAGAZINE?

HOT HAIRSTYLES FOR GIRLS

Cawe!

HUH?

HUH?

EEW, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE INTO THAT STUFF.

HER BIRTHDAY IS IN TWO DAYS.

OH...

I DON'T KNOW. A NECKLACE OR SOMETHING?

AH, WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE'D WANT, ASAHINA?

SHUT UP, I'M JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO GET HONOKA-CHAN.

WHAT?

MAYBE YOU COULD COME SHOPPING WITH ME TOMORROW IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING, ASAHINA.

YEAH, I JUST WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO PICK ONE OUT, SO...

OH YEAH... I GUESS YOU CAN'T HAVE ANOTHER GIRL HELP YOU BUY A PRESENT FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

UH... JUST KIDDING. SORRY.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING.

THIS IS TOTALLY AWK-WARD.

I'LL JUST GO SHOPPING TOMORROW.

I'LL FIND SOMETHING.

FLIP

HUH?

I'LL GO WITH YOU.

HUH?

REALLY?

I'M DOING SOMETHING TOMORROW, BUT....

I MEAN, I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO GET HER A NECKLACE...

IF YOU GO BY YOURSELF, YOU'LL END UP BUYING SOME UGLY PIECE OF CRAP, AND I'LL FEEL RESPONSIBLE.

I GUESS I COULD GO SHOPPING WITH YOU FOR A LITTLE BIT WHEN I'M DONE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

SERIOUSLY, I WAS FREAKING OUT!

THANKS! YOU JUST SAVED MY ASS.

WHY DON'T WE MEET AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO SHINJUKU STATION AT TWO O'CLOCK?

FLIP

OKAY...

SO...

TH-THIS IS NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?

.....

OKAY, COOL! THANK YOU SO MUCH.

DON'T BE LATE. I DON'T WANNA WAIT AROUND FOR YOU.

I'LL BE THERE.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A DATE. IT'S JUST A LITTLE SHOPPING TRIP.

BESIDES, I'M ONLY DOING IT SO I CAN GET A PRESENT FOR HONOKA-CHAN.

IF

MY BIRTHDAY ♡

I GUESS AKITSUKI-KUN...

...DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT MY BIRTHDAY.

SUZUKA

HUSTLE

BUSTLE

9/15 TUE 14:15

FWICK

GOD, HE BEGS ME TO HELP HIM...

...AND HE DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER TO SHOW UP.

TAPPA

TAPPA

ASAHINA!

SUZUKA

#49 SHINJUKU

GOD, THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND!

IF WE WENT TO IKEBUKURO, WE'D PROBABLY END UP RUNNING INTO PEOPLE FROM SCHOOL.

SORRY, I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO SHINJUKU BEFORE.

WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE JUST GONE TO IKE-BUKURO? THAT'S RIGHT ON YOUR WAY HOME.

AH...

OH YEAH.

HUH?

.....

UH... I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, WE DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT THAT STUFF, SO...

WHATEVER, LET'S JUST GO.

SO WHAT STYLE OF JEWELRY DOES HONOKA-CHAN LIKE?

WHAT STYLE?

O-OKAY.

OKAY, FINE. LET'S JUST START HITTING THE STORES.

LOVE HOROSCOPE

VIRGO
(AUGUST 23RD – SEPTEMBER 22ND)

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP, AND LOVE IS IN THE STARS. YOUR BOYFRIEND JUST MIGHT SURPRISE YOU WITH AN UNEXPECTED GIFT.

MONEY

HMM...
きれい目
AN UNEXPECTED GIFT...
HUH? ISN'T THAT HONOKA-CHAN?
BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT'S MY BIRTHDAY.
HELLO.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ALL ALONE ON A SUNDAY?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ON A DATE WITH YAMATO-KUN OR SOMETHING?

S-SAOTOME-SAN!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. HE WENT OUT TO BUY YOU A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

UH... AKITSUKI-KUN IS HANGING OUT WITH HATTORI-KUN TO-DAY.

HUH?

A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR ME?

AH...

YAMATO-KUN SAID HE WANTED TO SURPRISE HER.

WHATEVER.

GEEZ, YOU RUINED EVERYTHING. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE.

S-SORRY, JUST FORGET I SAID THAT.

HE'S PROBABLY GONNA GET YOU SOMETHING CRAPPY, SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU ACT REALLY EXCITED.

AKITSUKI-KUN IS OUT BUYING A PRESENT FOR ME?

OH...

BACK ISSUES

SO HE DOES KNOW...

おかず

冷凍→解凍でハイ、おかず

夕食ばんざい 肉のおかず 262

NOW I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM.

I MEAN, I DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING FOR AKITSUKI-KUN ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

THAI STYLE SPICY CURRY

食材：
新宿伊勢丹地下

FLIP

YOU COULD BE ON IRON CHEF!

THIS IS REALLY GOOD!

JCB CARD

STUDIO ALTA

I'LL GO SHOPPING.

MAYBE...

I FEEL SO OUT OF PLACE.

WHOA, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A STORE LIKE THIS.

WAH.

HUH? OH, OKAY.

QUIT SPACING OUT.

GET OVER HERE, AND HELP ME PICK ONE, YAMATO-KUN.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

UH, YEAH... MAYBE.

THIS IS CUTE, BUT IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE FLASHY FOR HONOKA-CHAN.

.....

SHE'D PROBABLY WANT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SUBTLE, DON'T YOU THINK?

Y-YEAH, OKAY.

WELL, WHY DON'T WE TRY ANOTHER STORE?

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GO TO SHIBUYA.

AH.

YEAH, THAT MIGHT BE GOOD.

I'M SO GLAD I ASKED ASAHINA FOR HELP.

. . . . . .

NO TRESPASSING

PARCO

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF PRESENT A GIRL WOULD LIKE.

BUT ASAHINA KNOWS ALL ABOUT FASHION, AND SHE LOVES TO SHOP.

IF I LET HER HANDLE IT, I'M SURE SHE'LL PICK SOMETHING GOOD.

STEP

STEP

...NO.

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU TIRED?

TH-THE ONE I LIKE BEST?

SORRY... I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

I THINK HONOKA-CHAN WOULD LIKE THE NECKLACES WE SAW AT MARUI AND ISETAN.

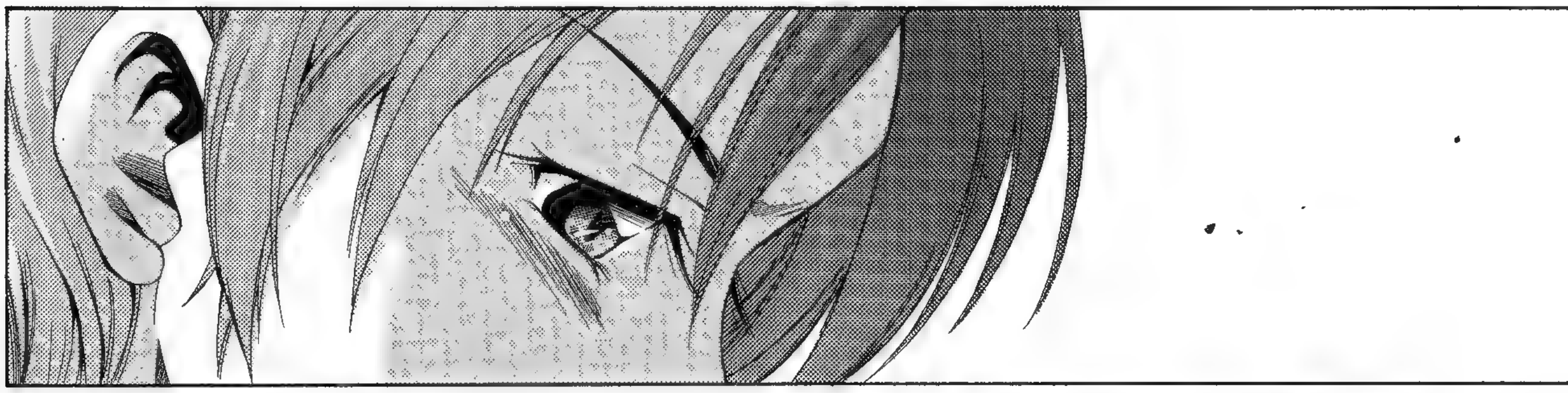
WHAT?

SO NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK THE ONE YOU LIKE BEST, YAMATO-KUN.

I-I MEAN...

I'LL JUST GET WHICHEVER ONE YOU LIKE BEST, ASAHINA...

THAT'S IT!



NO MATTER WHAT I ASK YOU...NO MATTER HOW MANY THINGS I SHOW YOU, ALL YOU CAN SAY IS I DON'T KNOW.

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER.

HUH?

UH...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GETTING HER A PRESENT IF YOU CAN'T EVEN CHOOSE SOMETHING YOURSELF?

I'M GOING HOME.

ASHINA...

I'M SORRY... I...

UH...

HUH?

HEY, YOU TWO. QUIT FIGHTING IN FRONT OF MY SHOP.

NOW YOU HAVE TO BUY SOMETHING TO MAKE UP FOR DRIVING MY CUSTOMERS AWAY.

I'LL GIVE YOU A GOOD DEAL.

HUH... YOU'RE THE NEWSPAPER GIRL... AND THE CABLE GIRL... AREN'T YOU?

HEY, WHAT'S UP?

BOBBY MADE THESE ALL BY HIMSELF. PRETTY AMAZING, HUH?

HEY, SUZUKA-CHAN! WIPE THAT FROWN OFF YOUR FACE, AND CHECK OUT MY SELECTION.

IT WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING TO LOOK.

BUT I...

WOW, THIS STUFF IS PRETTY COOL.

GIFTS?

YEAH, THE STYLE IS REALLY SIMPLE SO YOU CAN WEAR THEM WITH ANYTHING.

WE'VE GOT LOTS OF STUFF FOR GIRLS, TOO.

THEY MAKE GREAT GIFTS.

.....

HMMM.

HEY, ASAHINA. WOULD YOU PUT THIS ON FOR A SEC?

HUH?

NO WAY. WHY THE HELL SHOULD I HAVE TO...

...WAIT, YOU MEAN YOU'RE ACTUALLY CONSIDERING GETTING HER BIRTHDAY PRESENT HERE?

WOULD YOU JUST PUT IT ON.

I THINK IT'LL LOOK GOOD.

OKAY?

……

立入禁

FINE.

I'LL PUT IT ON.

スッ

SWIP

OKAY...

DOES THAT GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW IT'LL LOOK.

YEAH!

THAT LOOKS SO CUTE ON YOU!

HUH?

WOW. I'M SUCH A GOOD ARTIST.

YEAH, IT REALLY DOES. YOU LOOK SO CUTE, SUZUKA-CHAN.

I'LL TAKE THIS ONE. AND COULD YOU WRAP IT PLEASE.

THANKS.

THAT'S ENOUGH, THAT DEFINITELY GAVE ME AN IDEA OF HOW IT'LL LOOK.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF IT LOOKS GOOD ON ME?

.....

SO WHAT? I REALLY LIKE THAT NECKLACE.

I TAKE YOU TO EVERY SHOP IN TOKYO, AND... YOU END UP BUYING HER A PRESENT ON THE STREET.

I'LL BET HONOKA-CHAN'LL BE REALLY HAPPY.

コ
ソ
STEP

コ
ソ
STEP

MAYBE I SPENT A LITTLE TOO MUCH.

WOW, IT COST MORE THAN I THOUGHT TO BUY ALL THE INGREDIENTS.

TEE HEE

くすっ

AH!

WELL... HE'S OUT BUYING A PRESENT FOR ME, SO...

THE LEAST I COULD DO IS MAKE A NICE DINNER FOR HIM.

YASUNOBU! I MADE PLANS TO HANG OUT WITH YASUNOBU.

STEP

STEP

YOUR JAPANESE IS REALLY GOOD, BOBBY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AKITSUKI-KUN LIKES THIS MEAL.

I HOPE...

STEP

STEP

STEP

AH, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, ASAHINA.

WELL, I'M GONNA HEAD HOME OKAY, YAMATO-KUN.

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

WHA—?

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 7

SUZUKA-MON

KABUTO COMICS

CHAPTER 1
THE PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT

KOUJI SEO

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

LISTEN TO WHAT CAPTAIN KINUGASA DID.

ASAHIYU BATHS

SUZUKA-MON!

BUT, THIS TIME HE REALLY WENT OVER-BOARD.

HE ALWAYS PICKS ON ME.

HE TREATS ME LIKE A HUMAN PUNCHING BAG!

GOD, WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

SLURP ズズ"

YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.

ARE YOU NUTS? HE SCARES THE SHIT OUT OF ME!

SLAM

THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY PUNCHING HIM BACK, YOU PATHETIC WUSS!

YOU'RE SCARING ME SUZUKA-MON

SNIKKT

JUST SIT DOWN, OR I'LL WHOOP YOUR ASS!

OVER WHERE?

SIT DOWN OVER THERE.

GREAT, HERE COMES ANOTHER LECTURE.

ARE YOU LISTENING?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE CONFIDENT AND ASSERTIVE!

STOP ACTING LIKE SUCH A PUSSY! THAT'S WHY EVERYONE ALWAYS PICKS ON YOU!

HOW LONG CAN SHE GO ON?

IT'S BEEN THREE HOURS.

BLAH

BLAH

BLAH

WHEN SOMEONE STARTS TALKING SHIT TO YOU...

YOU'VE GOTTA GIVE IT RIGHT BACK TO 'EM.

もふっ FWAPPA

もふっ FWAPP

SLAM

I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!

ARE YOU LISTENING?

カラ SLIDE

HANG ON. LET ME FIND IT.

HEH, HEH, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.

NOW I'LL GIVE YOU A SECRET WEAPON THAT'LL HELP YOU BEAT THE CAPTAIN AT HIS OWN GAME.

I-IT'S IN THE CABINET?

CLACK

NOW WHERE DID I PUT IT?

GEEZ, I'VE GOTTA CLEAN THIS STUFF UP.

HUH? AREN'T YOU GONNA TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR MAGIC POCKET?

DON'T BE STUPID.

AH! HERE IT IS!

PROTEIN!

THE BASA

2AM

STREI

TA-DAH!

HOW IS THIS A SECRET WEAPON?

UH, I'M SURE IT'S FINE, BUT...

DON'T WORRY. IT HASN'T EXPIRED YET.

A-A PROTEIN SUPPLE-MENT?

AHHH! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

YOU MAKE ME SICK!

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SECRET WEAPON, YOU IDIOT!

ASAHIYU

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL DRINK THIS AND I'LL START TRAINING.

DON'T DRINK IT ALL AT ONCE. YOU HAVE TO DRINK A GLASS EVERY OTHER HOUR AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR WORKOUT.

AND MAKE SURE YOU GET AT LEAST 300-400 CALORIES WORTH OF CARBS ALONG WITH IT.

WHACK

QUICK LOOKING FOR THE EASY WAY OUT!

WHOA! I'M FELLING PRETTY MACHO!

MY CLOTHES ARE ALL SUPER TIGHT NOW!

モリ

モリ

RIPPED

TWO MONTHS LATER.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, SUZUKA-MON, AND THE SPECIAL TRAINING DIET YOU PUT ME ON.

BULGE

GOOD JOB, YAMATO-KUN. NOW YOU'VE FINALLY GOT SOME MUSCLES.

4

BULGE

YEAH!

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LOSE NOW!

THE NEXT TIME THE CAPTAIN PICKS ON YOU, I WANT YOU TO WHOOP HIS ASS.

GRRR.

HE'S PICKING ON ANOTHER POOR GUY.

OKAY, OKAY!

HEY, QUIT SLACKING OR I'LL SMACK YOU.

NO! DON'T DO IT, YAMATO-SAN.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

I'M GONNA KICK HIS ASS.

HUH?

HEY!

WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE?

BUT...

I'LL BE FINE, HONOKA-CHAN. JUST WATCH.

WAHHH!

FWUMP

MOVE IT!

KOBAY-AKAWA.

ARE YOU CRAZY, YAMATO-KUN?

WHAT'S A LITTLE PIPSQUEAK LIKE YOU DOING MESSING WITH THE CAPTAIN?

KICK

WH-WHAT?

SQUEEZE もみ

SQUEEZE もみ

HMM.

HE SAID THAT NOW I HAVE MUSCLES HE'S GONNA MAKE ME DO THE DISCUS.

NOW PRACTICE IS EVEN TOUGHER THAN IT WAS BEFORE.

TELL SOMEONE WHO CARES.

FRIENDS

なかよす

WHAT WILL BECOME OF YAMATO AND SUZUKA-MON? FIND OUT IN THE NEXT EPISODE. WAIT, IS THERE REALLY GONNA BE A NEXT EPISODE?

END OF CHAPTER 1

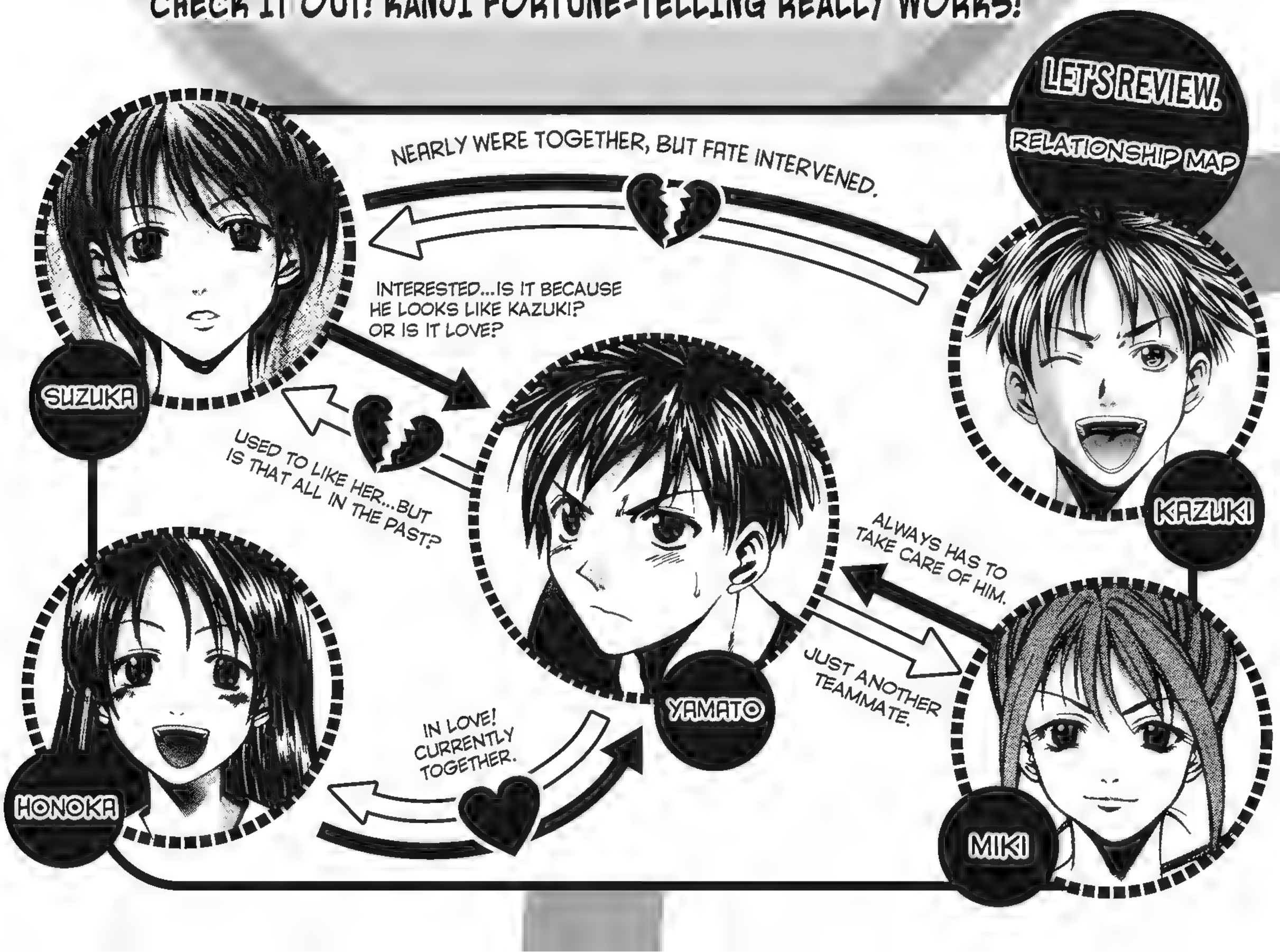
THE SEARCH FOR YAMATO'S IDEAL GIRLFRIEND

A KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY TEST

HAS SUZUKA HAD A CHANGE OF HEART SINCE YAMATO STARTED GOING OUT WITH HONOKA?

...LOOKS LIKE THIS LOVE STORY IS GETTING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED. THAT'S WHY...WE DECIDED TO DO A LITTLE COMPATIBILITY FORTUNE-TELLING TO DETERMINE WHOSE PERSONALITY WOULD MESH BEST WITH YAMATO'S! COMPARE OUR KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY RESULTS WITH THE CHARACTERS' PERSONALITIES IN THE BOOK TO SEE IF THEY MATCH UP.

CHECK IT OUT! KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING REALLY WORKS!



AKITSUKI YAMATO

NUMBER OF STROKES IN HIS NAME: 24 ○

CHARACTER PROFILE

VERY SIMPLE AND SOMEWHAT NAÏVE. NOT MUCH OF A DEEP THINKER, BUT ONCE HE STARTS THINKING, HE LOSES SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE. DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT WOMEN.

FORTUNE-TELLING RESULTS

STUBBORN, HARDHEADED, AND ASSERTIVE. BUT WHEN HE ACTUALLY TAKES THE TIME TO LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS, HE REALLY STARTS TO MAKE PROGRESS. AS STUBBORN AS HE IS, HE IS ALSO VERY CONSIDERATE TOWARD HIS FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES. THIS SHOULD HELP HIM LIVE A FULFILLING FAMILY LIFE.

YOU'VE GOTTA LISTEN TO PEOPLE MORE, YAMATO!

SUZUKA ASAHINA

NUMBER OF STROKES IN HER NAME: 44 △

CHARACTER PROFILE

FULL OF PRIDE. SHE HOLDS HERSELF AND OTHERS TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS. SHE ACTS TOUGH AND RARELY ALLOWS HERSELF TO APPEAR VULNERABLE, BUT... COULD SHE ACTUALLY BE A LONELY SOUL?

FORTUNE-TELLING RESULTS

INTELLIGENT AND FULL OF PRIDE. HAS A NERVOUS TEMPERAMENT AND IS EASILY IRRITATED. BUT IN THE FUTURE SHE WILL FIND HER SOULMATE AND HAVE A FAMILY. SHE WILL ENJOY A LOVING RELATIONSHIP.

FULL OF PRIDE... THAT PART'S DEFINITELY RIGHT!

HONOKA SAKURAI

NUMBER OF STROKES IN HER NAME: 33

CHARACTER PROFILE

SWEET AND CUTE WITH A VERY WARM PERSONALITY. IF ONE HAD TO COMPARE HER TO A COLOR...IT'D BE PINK. BUT GIRLS LIKE HER OFTEN HAVE A BOLD, AGGRESSIVE SIDE HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN.

FORTUNE-TELLING RESULTS

GOOD-NATURED AND GENTLE, WITH A LOVING PERSONALITY. HAS NO DESIRE TO STAND OUT, SO SOMETIMES SHE GOES UNNOTICED, BUT SHE'S STEADILY BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION THAT WILL LEAD HER TO SUCCESS. SHE WILL BE BLESSED WITH A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME. SHE WILL HAVE GOOD LUCK WITH MONEY AND CHILD REARING.

BLESSED WITH A GOOD SOURCE OF INCOME? DOES THAT MEAN SHE'LL MARRY INTO MONEY?

MIKI HASHIBA

NUMBER OF STROKES IN HER NAME: 33

CHARACTER PROFILE

HAS NO PROBLEM SHOWING HER FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS. SHE'S TOUGH BUT HAS A VERY CHEERFUL PERSONALITY. GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE.

FORTUNE-TELLING RESULTS

PROUD AND STUBBORN. DESPISES LAZINESS AND IMMORAL BEHAVIOR. SEES EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF BLACK AND WHITE. WOMEN WITH THIS PERSONALITY OFTEN TAKE THE DOMINANT ROLE IN THEIR RELATIONSHIPS.

THE DOMINANT ROLE...I CAN SEE THAT.

THE RESULTS!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE GOOD FOLKS AT HTTP://WWW.KOUFUKU.NE.JP FOR THEIR HELP WITH THE FORTUNE-TELLING.

THE BICKERING NEVER CEASES WITH SUZUKA AND YAMATO, BUT THEY STILL MIGHT GET ALONG AS A COUPLE. MIKI AND YAMATO WOULD BE BEST FRIENDS AND LOVERS. BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HONOKA-CHAN AND YAMATO MIGHT BE THE BEST MATCH. AS LONG AS YAMATO DOESN'T ABUSE HONOKA'S NATURAL SWEETNESS, THEY COULD BE A PERFECT COUPLE. LOOKS LIKE THESE FORTUNES ARE PRETTY MUCH IN LINE WITH WHAT'S TAKING PLACE IN THE STORY. BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT ROUGH WATERS LIE AHEAD FOR YAMATO AND HONOKA.

SO...

SUZUKA *GETS MORE AND MORE EXCITING WITH EVERY VOLUME!*

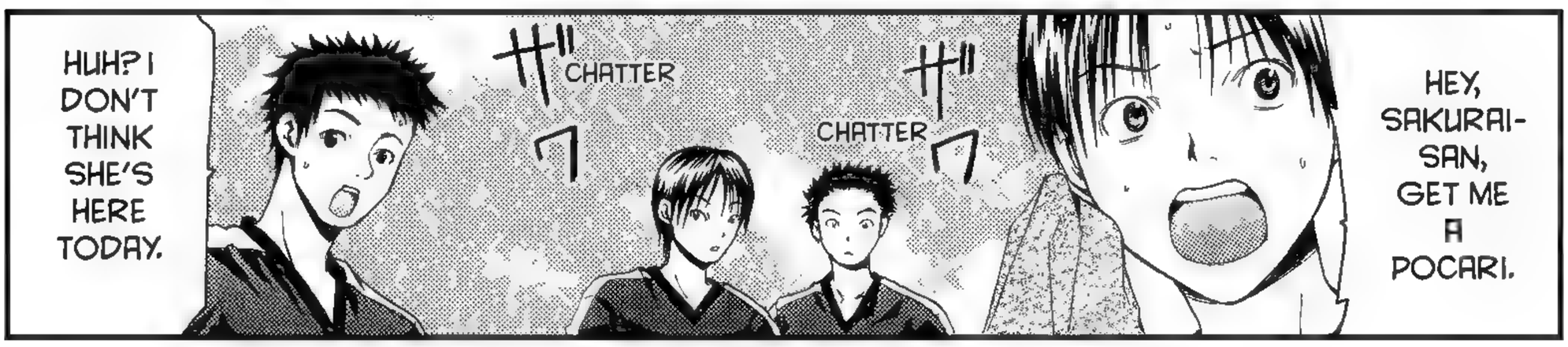
LOOK FOR BOOK 7 IN STORES SOON!

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

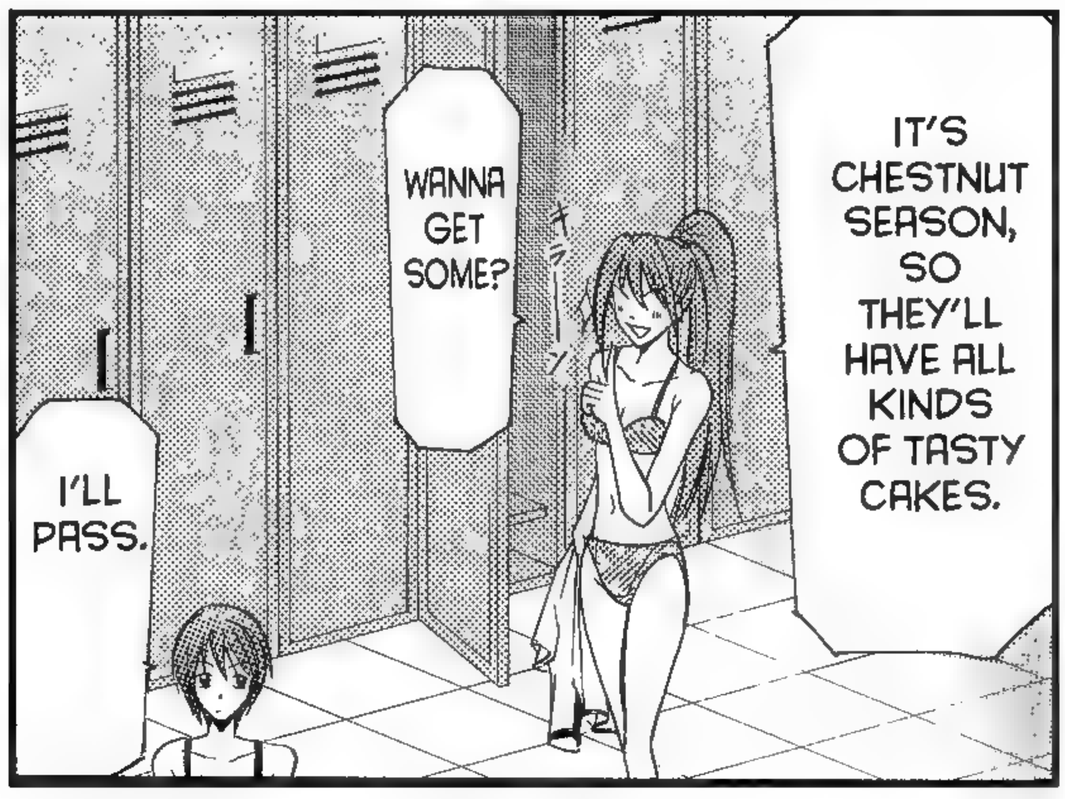
Pocari, page 70

Pocari Sweat is a popular sports drink similar to Gatorade.



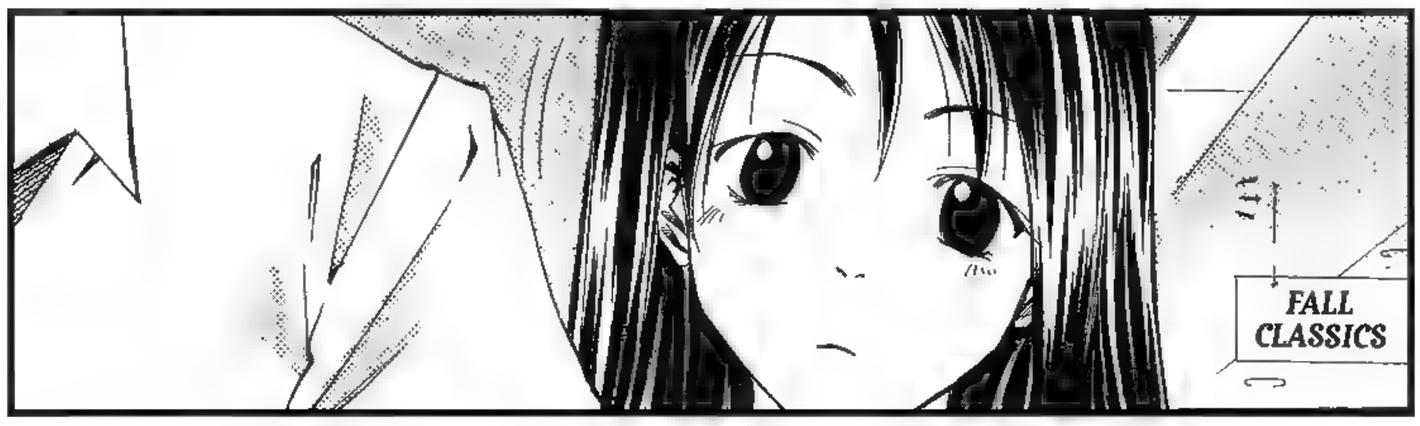
Chestnut season, page 90

Chestnuts are a common snack in Japan. In the fall and winter they're sold by street vendors. Chestnut sweets and cakes are very popular seasonal treats.



Fall reading, page 104

In Japan, fall is considered the best time of year to enjoy a novel. In bookstores, come autumn, there is often a special section of fall reading material.

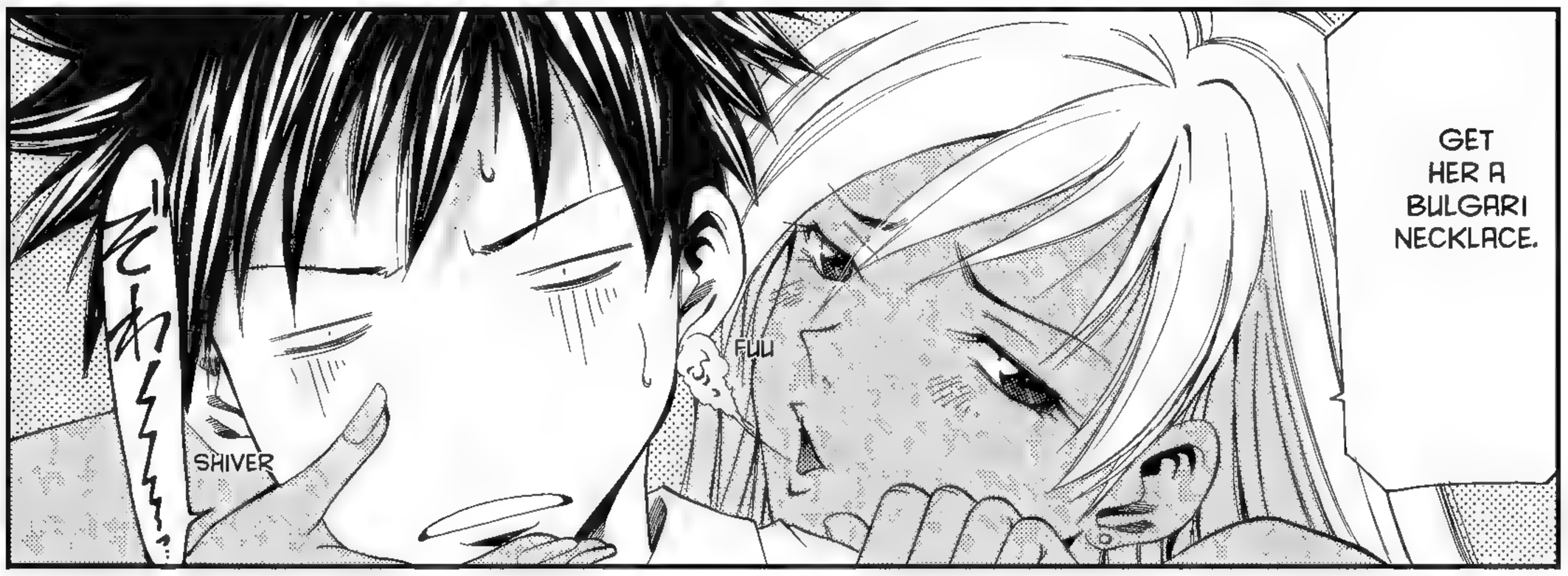


MD player, page 105

MiniDiscs are miniature CDs that can be used for recording. MD players are wildly popular in Japan, but the technology has never quite caught on in the States.

Bulgari, page 149

Bulgari is a high-end Italian fashion brand.

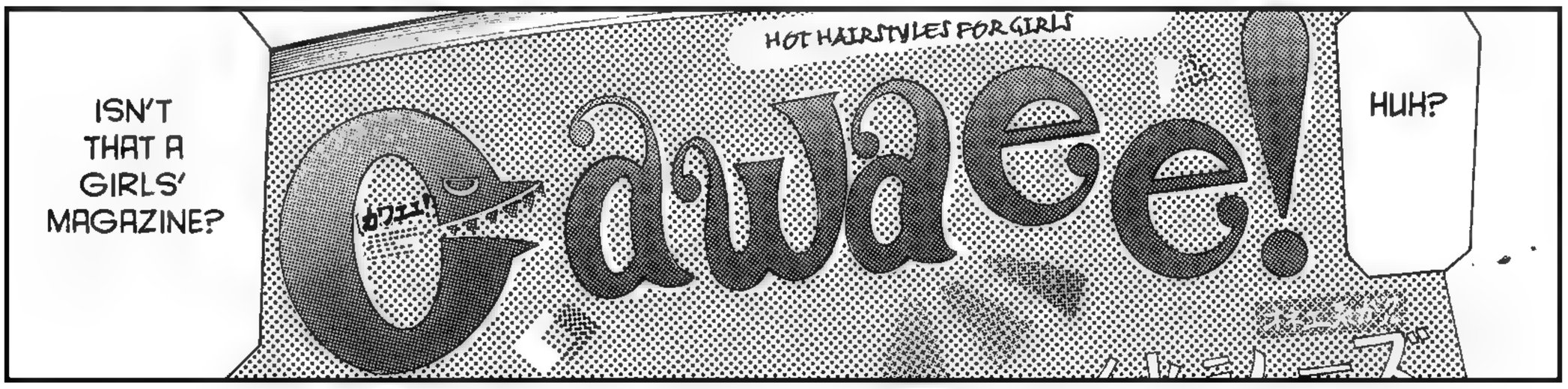


Hermès bag, page 150

The beautifully made leather bags from the French fashion house Hermès are among the most coveted luxury handbags. Grace Kelly and Jackie Onassis were two famous fans of Hermès bags. With a price tag running around five digits, a Hermès bag is way out of Yamato's price range.

Cawaee magazine, page 154

This is a play on the popular girls' fashion magazine title *Cawaii*, which is itself a play on the Japanese word for "cute," *kawaii*.



Lost in Shinjuku, page 160

Shinjuku Station is one of the largest central train stations in Tokyo. Around three million people pass through the station each day. It's a city within a city replete with restaurants, department stores, and underground shopping promenades. It's notoriously confusing to navigate one's way through the station.

Ikebukuro, page 161

Ikebukuro is another central Tokyo shopping district famous for its huge department stores.

Shibuya, page 166

Shibuya is yet another famous Tokyo shopping district. It's very popular with young people.

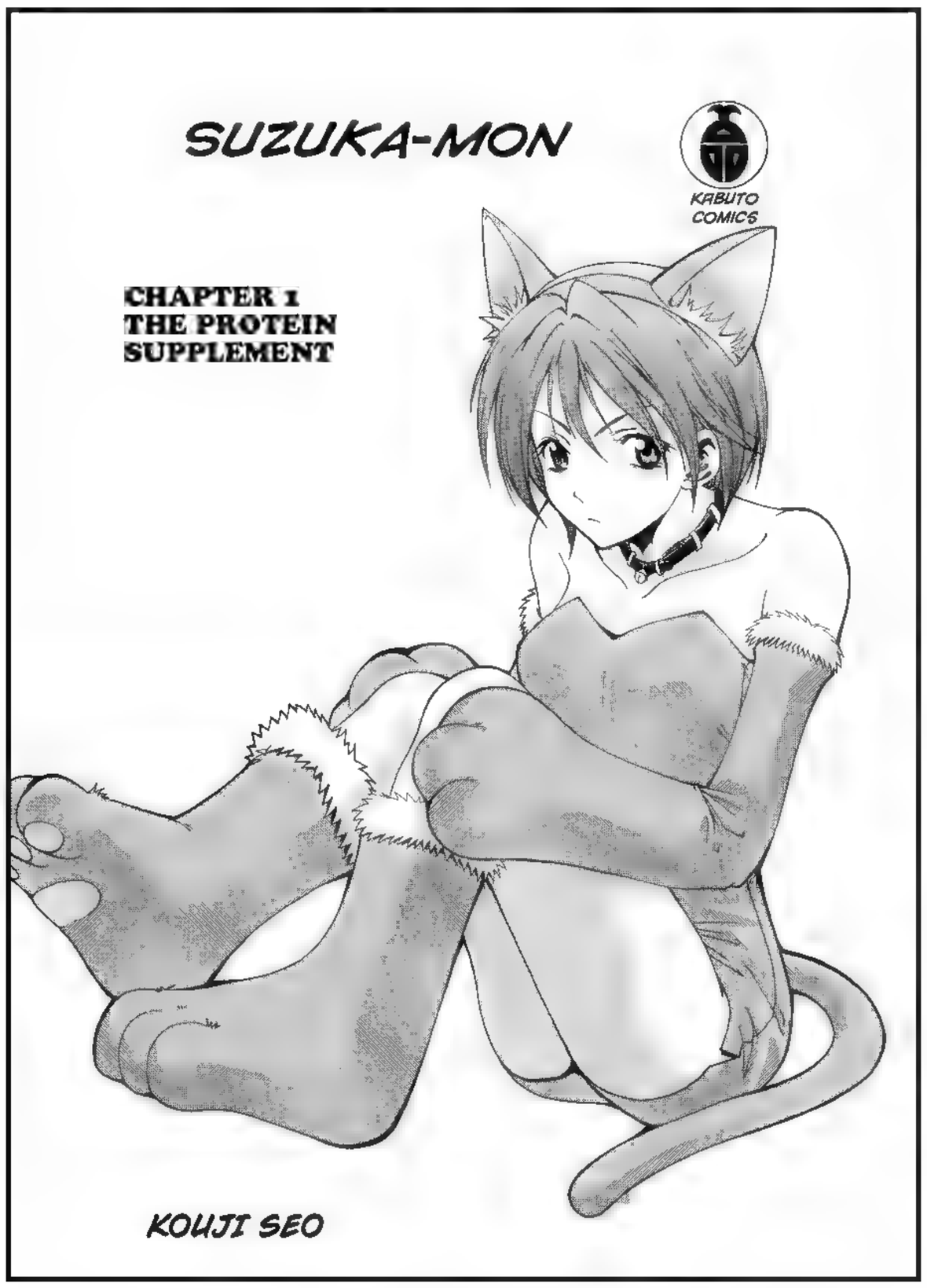
I THINK HONOKA-CHAN WOULD LIKE THE NECKLACES WE SAW AT MARUI AND ISETAN.
SO NOW ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK THE ONE YOU LIKE BEST, YAMATO-KUN.

Marui and Isetan, page 167

Marui and Isetan are both department stores.

Suzuka-mon, page 177

This Suzuka-mon bonus comic is a parody of the famous Japanese cartoon character Doraemon. Doraemon is a catlike creature with a magical pocket containing an endless supply of useful gadgets.



Kanji fortune-telling, page 186

Aishou uranai is a method of fortune-telling where the kanji in a person's first and last name are used to determine their personality type. The fortune is determined by adding up the number of strokes in all the kanji characters in the name.

THE SEARCH FOR YAMATO'S IDEAL GIRLFRIEND
A KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY TEST
HAS SUZUKA HAD A CHANGE OF HEART SINCE YAMATO STARTED GOING OUT WITH HONOKA?
...LOOKS LIKE THIS LOVE STORY IS GETTING MORE AND MORE COMPLICATED. THAT'S WHY...WE DECIDED TO DO A LITTLE COMPATIBILITY FORTUNE-TELLING TO DETERMINE WHOSE PERSONALITY WOULD MESH BEST WITH YAMATOS! COMPARE OUR KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING COMPATIBILITY RESULTS WITH THE CHARACTERS' PERSONALITIES IN THE BOOK TO SEE IF THEY MATCH UP.
CHECK IT OUT! KANJI FORTUNE-TELLING REALLY WORKS!

Preview of Volume 7

We're pleased to present you with a preview of volume 7. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

アイツ
あれがいいとかこれがいいとか
散々オレのこと連れ回してさァ

そんで
二人で渋谷まで回って
気が付いたらもう
夕方なんだもん

・・・・・・・・

そ・・・
そうなんだ・・・・

そうだよォ
腹減ったし疲れたし
フラフラで

朝比奈もなんか
機嫌悪くなってくるし・・・

そんで結局 オレが
選んだのが一番よくてさ

・・・・・・・・

だったらオレ一人で
行ったほうが マシだったよ 絶対!

・・・・・・・・

・・・・
どうして

そんなに
楽しそうに
話すの・・?

私(わたし)といる時(とき)は
一度(いちど)だって あんな顔(かお)
してくれないのに・・

アイツと買(か)い物(もの)
行(い)くといつもあぁ

もう
いい・・・・

・・・・え？

もう・・・・

聞(き)きたくない・・

な・何(なに)？
オレなんか変(へん)なこと・・・・

だから
もういいの・・！

・・・・・・・

これ・・・

やっぱり返(かえ)す・・・・

は!?

ガラガラ

ピシャ

ア

ア

ア

ア

ア

ガラガラ

あ・・萌果(ほのか)ちゃん!!

私 やっぱり・・・

そんな話 笑って聞いてられない・・・

ワタシのレシピ

秋月くんのバカ・・！

地湯

・・・・・・・・・

サイテーだオレ・・・・

また やらかしてしまった・・・・

・・・ん？

ゴ〃〃〃

Aventura

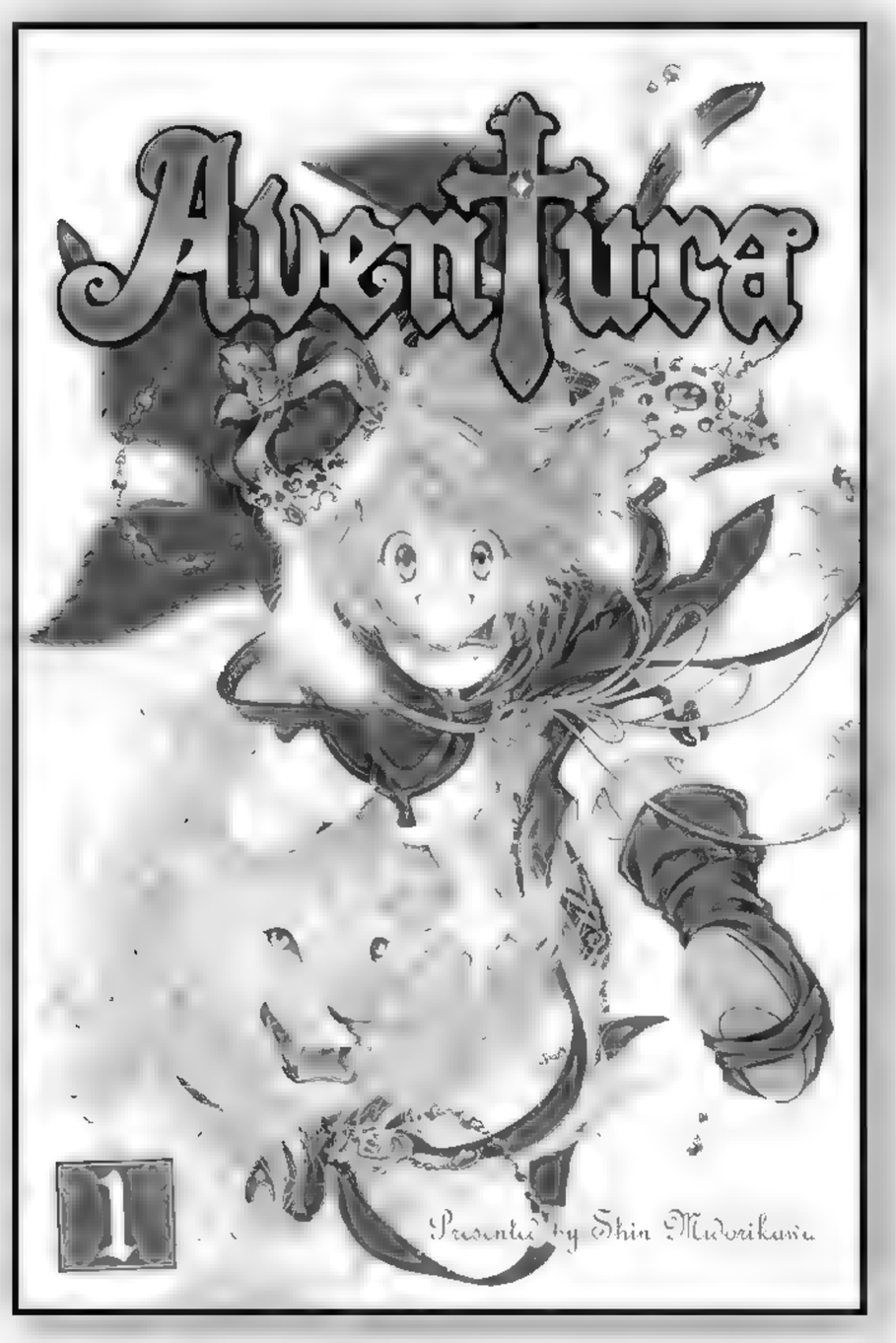
Shin Midorikawa

NEVER STOP BELIEVING

Since ancient days, the Gaius School of Witchcraft and Wizardry has trained the fiercest swordsmen and the most powerful wizards.

Now one boy could become the greatest of them all. If he studies hard. If he is true to his friends. If he believes.

And if he survives . . .



Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING T AGES 13+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ

The Otaku's Choice™

Aventura © 2006 Shin Midorikawa/ KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

HIROYUKI TAMAKOSHI

JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS

A whole new Gacha Gacha story line begins! Akira Hatsushiba is just your typical, average high school kid . . . until a glitch in a Gacha Gacha video game changes his life forever. Now, every time Akira sneezes, his entire body undergoes a gender-bending switcheroo! That's right, Akira is always just an *achoo* away from getting in touch with his feminine side. But it's not all bad. Akira has had a crush on Yurika Sakuraba ever since he first laid eyes on her. He's always been too shy, but now that he can change into a girl, Akira finally has a chance to get close to Yurika. Being a girl certainly has its advantages!

Special extras in each volume! Read them all!

VISIT WWW.DELREYMANGA.COM TO:

- Read sample pages
- View release date calendars for upcoming volumes
- Sign up for Del Rey's free manga e-newsletter
- Find out the latest about new Del Rey Manga series

RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ

The Otaku's Choice

Gacha Gacha: The Next Revolution © 2004 Hiroyuki Tamakoshi / KODANSHA LTD. All rights reserved.

Subscribe to

DEL REY'S MANGA e-newsletter—

and receive all these exciting exclusives directly in your e-mail inbox:

- Schedules and announcements about the newest books on sale
- Exclusive interviews and exciting behind-the-scenes news
- Previews of upcoming material
- A manga reader's forum, featuring a cool question-and-answer section

For more information and to sign up for Del Rey's manga e-newsletter,

visit www.delreymanga.com

You are going the wrong way!

Manga is a completely different
type of reading experience.

To start at the *beginning,* go to the *end*!

That's right! Authentic manga is read the traditional Japanese way—from right to left, exactly the *opposite* of how American books are read. It's easy to follow: Just go to the other end of the book, and read each page—and each panel—from right side to left side, starting at the top right. Now you're experiencing manga as it was meant to be.

Suzuka 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Suzuka volume 6 copyright © 2005 by Kouji Seo
English translation copyright © 2007 by Kouji Seo
All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2005 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682334188

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translator/adapter: David Ury
Lettering: North Market Street Graphics Seo_